

## Missing American airman and son found alive

ANKARA (AP) — A U.S. Air Force pilot and his 10-year-old son who disappeared while skiing were found alive Tuesday, surviving nine days in freezing wilderness by holing up in a cave and eating snow. Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Ronald Couillard, 37, and his youngest son, Matthew, were last seen Jan. 15 on a ski lift at the northern Turkish resort of Kartalkaya, 110 kilometres from Ankara, where the officer is assigned. Mustafa Karsiglu, chief physician at Boht state hospital where the pair were first taken, said both father and son were conscious but their feet were swollen from frostbite. "The boy's condition appears more serious with his right leg being swollen from the knee down," he added. Guner Ozmen, acting chief of national security, said Col. Couillard and his son spent eight days in a cave after losing their way in a blizzard. The cave was some five kilometres from the ski resort. Then Col. Couillard went in search of help, walking about a kilometre until he found an unheated cottage in a state forest camp in Asdag Valley. After a day in the cottage, forest workers found the pilot, who then led rescuers to his son, Dr. Ozmen.

Deng in good health - Chinese official

KUALA LUMPUR (UPI) — Chinese patriarch Xi Jinping is in good health but has a slight cold, age, a senior Chinese official told reporters Tuesday. "Deng is a man you have to take care of him," said Mr. Wang, who is director of the Shanghai Economic Relations Agency. Straits TAMSIL, Chinese in China, said that he will have a long stay in Malaysia's capital, Kuala Lumpur, for a few days. Mr. Wang said, "We are still awaiting the results of the forum. Concerns about the health of Chinese President Deng Xiaoping, 88 years old, have been raised in Hong Kong, Southeast Asia and the United States. Mr. Wang said that his trip would be a success. "We are not worried about the outcome because of natural consequences," he said.

Jerusalem settlers defy government

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The heads of settlements around Jerusalem threw down the gauntlet to the government on Tuesday setting up a forum to boost construction. The move was announced as a direct challenge to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin who on Sunday set up a special ministerial committee to control new building in "greater Jerusalem." Local authority chiefs from Jerusalem and the settlements of Maale Adumim, Givat Ze'ev, Gush Etzion, Efrat and Betar met Tuesday in the Holy City and announced "cooperative efforts aimed at fighting to maintain the momentum in construction and development of the entire area."

Prince Sultan hails talks with Yemenis

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi Arabia has hailed talks with Yemeni officials aimed at settling a border dispute, saying they are being conducted in a "fraternal" spirit. Defence Minister Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz, quoted by the official news agency SPA, told the Saudi cabinet Tuesday the talks "are taking place in a fraternal spirit with the aim of reaching a joint approach to all the outstanding problems between the two countries." The Yemeni delegation led by Parliamentary Speaker Sheikh Abdullah Al Ahmar told AFP two countries had agreed to set up a joint committee to outline an accord to settle the 60-year-old dispute and discuss ways to develop Saudi-Yemeni ties.

7 sentenced to death in Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — An Algerian court on Tuesday handed down death sentences against seven people, six of them still on the run, for the October 1993 abduction of three French consular officials. The special court also handed down jail terms against other defendants, including one life term, another of 20 years, two of eight years, one of three and another of six months. Five people were acquitted. The only defendant sentenced to death to be in court was Mohamad Ait Bellouk, a Moroccan accused of having driven the vehicle used in the kidnapping. His mother, Fatma-Zohra, accused of having kept watch over Michele Thevenet, one of the consular officials kidnapped, was handed a six-month prison sentence.

Iraq to return Kuwaiti property

KUWAIT (AP) — Iraq will resume next month returning Kuwaiti possessions taken during its seven-month occupation of the emirate, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported Tuesday. It quoted Sultan Majed Al Shaeheen, a Foreign Ministry under-secretary, as saying a senior United Nations official informed him of Iraq's decision Monday.

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# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

## Netanyahu wants army to attack militants

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The leader of Israel's right-wing opposition on Tuesday called for a freer hand for the army so it could strike at militants in their own bases. Benjamin Netanyahu, head of the Likud Party, told parliament: "We must give back the Israeli army its freedom of manoeuvre, and announce that there will not be any new safe havens in Judea and Samaria (West Bank) like in Gaza. Then we must attack terrorists inside their own bases." The opposition leader added that "we must give Palestinians autonomy, but in no case a state." All of Israel's right-wing parties called for a suspension of autonomy talks with the Palestinians after militants killed 19 people in a double suicide bombing near the Israeli coastal resort of Netanya on Sunday. Mr. Netanyahu was speaking during a debate on a vote of censure of the government, following its partial freezing of Jewish settlement building around Jerusalem. The motion, brought by the right-wing, was rejected by 61 votes to 53, with six abstentions. The ultra-orthodox Jewish party Shas, which normally supports the ruling coalition, voted against the government.

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## Arafat visits Jordan today; accords ready for signing

Understanding on Jerusalem, Agreements seen to herald mutual needs clear the air

By Ghadeer Taher  
Special to the Jordan Times

No Palestinian passport for Jordanians'

AMMAN — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat arrives here today amid high hopes that his talks with His Majesty King Hussein will put an end to a long period of tension and suspicion that characterised Jordan-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) relations amid the intricacies of Middle East peacemaking.

A joint Jordanian-Palestinian ministerial team laid the groundwork for the visit of Mr. Arafat, who is expected to sign a much-delayed, wide-ranging memorandum of understanding and cooperation, with Jordan.

Foreign Minister Abdur Karim Kababish told journalists on the eve of Mr. Arafat's visit that the agreement represents "a general framework organising bilateral relations in addition to protocols to be put in place by experts."

(Continued on page 7)

By Lamis K. Andoni  
Special to the Jordan Times

JORDAN AND the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) have reached a historic agreement to formulate a joint strategy that involves close and constant coordination in the Middle East peace process and cooperation in all fields.

The preamble for the general agreement, however, falls short of defining a future framework for the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship although it implies that the immediate aim is to support the Palestinian quest for independence and sovereignty.

The document, yet to be officially ratified, is the first political bilateral agreement since 1983 that does not define the establishment of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation as the future goal on the sidelines of the negotiations.

The Jordanian position is to abide by the resolutions of the Arab League which do not permit dual Arab nationalities," said the official. "But if there is any other proposal, it should be submitted through the Arab

The documents leaked so far involve monetary and banking agreements and indicate, however, that the door

is left open for future options on forms of bilateral relations.

The accords, especially the economic part, draw the line between two separate entities and if implemented and developed could lay the ground for a future form of unity — as the agreements involve a high level of integration in all fields.

As it is, the theme of the accords, at least the political preamble, is consistent with the repeatedly declared Jordanian position not to pre-define a future form of bilateral relations.

His Majesty King Hussein has said on different occasions that Jordan refused to commit itself to a federation or confederation before the Palestinians are free from Israeli occupation and can have a say about their future.

According to Jordanian officials, it is unrealistic and impossible to predetermine the form of the future rela-

(Continued on page 7)



His Majesty King Hussein with Sultan Qaboos Ben Said in Zayam on Tuesday (Petra photo)

## King returns from Oman after reaffirming pledge for peace

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein returned home Tuesday after talks with Sultan Qaboos Ben Said of Oman. During the talks Jordan and Oman pledged to support the Middle East peace process until a comprehensive settlement is reached.

King Hussein met with Sultan Qaboos in Zayam in the presence of senior Jordanian and Omani officials.

King Hussein briefed Sultan Qaboos on Jordan's priorities after it signed the Oct. 26 peace treaty with Israel and stressed that the Kingdom would focus on building a better future for its coming generations, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by the delegation accompanying the King, which included His Royal Highness Prince Ali Ben Al Hussein, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, the King's

which launched the Middle East peace process in October 1991, it said.

Jordan, the King underlined, will also do its utmost at various levels to achieve better conditions for the peoples of the region which have over decades suffered because of conflicts and the absence of security and stability.

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military advisor Major General Hmeidi Al Fayez and the Jordanian ambassador in Muscat.

On the Omani side, the meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister for Financial and Economic Affairs Qais Ben Abdul Mun'eem Al Zawawi, Omani Royal Court Minister Seif Ben Hamad, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yousef Ben Alawi and Information Minister Abdul Aziz Rawwas.

"By signing the (Oct. 26) treaty with Israel, Jordan regained all its rights, and Jordanian land and water have been restored."

"We now face a new stage which we hope will be one of good and development for Jordan and for all Arab brethren."

Jordan, he said, "will work incessantly by all means that can lead to the end of the state of no-war, no-peace from which the Arab World

(Continued on page 7)

## Israel plans 'security' border after mass arrest

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin unveiled plans Tuesday to build a border to separate Israelis and Palestinians amid a crackdown on hardline Palestinians who killed 19 in a suicide bombing.

A committee will be appointed by the cabinet on Sunday to draw up a "separation plan" between Israel and the West Bank.

Last Sunday's bombing by Islamic Jihad was the fourth suicide attack in Israel in the last 10 months and led Mr. Rabin to warn that "total separation" was the only way to halt the violence.

Mr. Rabin told army radio that he expected that the plan "to gradually carry out the separation" would take about two months to formulate.

The body would be given up to two months to draw up what he called a "security border" for the five-year interim period of Palestinian autonomy.

It would not necessarily be the same as any political border which might be agreed in negotiations with the Palesti-

nians on a final agreement that are set to start in May 1996.

But he enraged right-wingers who accused the government of paving the way for an independent Palestine.

"Rabin is preparing for the creation of a Palestinian state," said Moshe Katz, head of the Likud parliamentary party.

The proposed fence would reportedly take about one year to build and cost \$230 million. Mr. Rabin's cabinet first discussed the plan in an emergency session hours after the bombing.

Mr. Rabin said he now wanted "to begin to give a concrete reality to the idea of separation."

Economic issues such as Palestinian employment would be taken into account but "the security issue is the dominant one," Mr. Rabin said.

Asked if the plan was not really establishing a de facto border, Mr. Rabin answered that "there can be security

(Continued on page 7)

## U.S. freezes assets of 12 Middle East groups

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton on Tuesday froze the U.S. assets of 12 organisations and 18 people suspected of trying to destroy the Middle East peace process.

The groups targeted include Islamic Jihad, the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, Hizbullah, the Palestine Liberation Front, and Kach, an extremist Jewish group.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres supported the proposal as a way to stop the bombings. "The idea of erecting a security barrier definitely appeals to me," he said. "I think we need physical separation so the terrorists won't come in."

As part of Israel's counter strike against militants, troops raided homes and hideouts late Monday and Tuesday and arrested more than 60 activists in the Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups, Palestinian reporters and Israel Radio said.

We are waging an all-out war against Hamas," said Major General Ilan Biran, top military commander for the occupied territories.

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(Continued on page 7)

Arab and Israeli leaders to meet in Paris

TRIPOLI (Agencies) — Libya on Tuesday urged an immediate end to the U.N. sanctions, saying a Scottish report exonerated it from the December 1988 Lockerbie plane bombing that killed 270 people.

Evidence is accumulating daily, exonerating Libya and the two Libyan suspects, state-run Libyan radio said.

"Western allegations against the Great Jamahiriya (Libya) are collapsing, its innocence will be proven (...) the unjust measures should be lifted immediately," it added.

Along with French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, the leaders will address the opening session of a privately organised conference on the future of the Mediterranean region after Israeli-Palestinian peace and will have opportunities for private talks, the organisers told a news conference.

The three-day session, organised by France's Radio Shalom and TF1 television station and the Egyptian daily Al Ahram, will provide an opportunity to discuss the way forward for the peace process.

Mr. Clinton had joined other world leaders in condemning Sunday's bombing in Netanya, which killed 19 people, including 18 Jewish soldiers.

Sunday he called the perpetrators "enemies of peace" and expressed the White House's fear that continued violence in the Middle East will undermine efforts to achieve peace between Israel and the Arabs.

Mr. Abu Odeh said the Kingdom, which signed the NPT in 1988 and sent the ratification documents to the U.N. in 1990, has been consistent in demanding that the Jewish state sign it as demonstrated by its voting record in the U.N.

Israel, which, Western experts believe, has about 200 nuclear warheads, has consistently refused to sign the NPT and has never acknowledged possessing nuclear weapons.

Egypt, a key player in the Arab League, has said it would not sign the NPT unless the Jewish state joins it or commits itself to doing so in the future. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Egypt will not budge on these demands.

The NPT is to be renewed in a meeting of the 169 signatories in New York in April

(Continued on page 7)

## Libya urges end to ban after media revelations

rahi and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimma, for the Lockerbie bombing and have been seeking their extradition. Libya has persistently claimed its innocence.

The U.N. Security Council imposed an air and arms embargo on Libya in April 1992 to force it to hand over the wanted men.

Tehran on Tuesday denied any links with the Lockerbie bombing, saying the allegations were a Western campaign to sully Iran's image, the official news agency IRNA said.

"Any claim that Iran is connected to the issue is baseless," Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadzadeh told IRNA.

"These charges are part of the propaganda launched by the Zionists and certain Western circles to harm the image of the Islamic republic," he said.

"By resorting to such tactics, the Zionists seek to distract world public opinion away from their acts of terrorism around the world and justify their oppressive actions in the Middle East."

Mr. Mohammadzadeh said Iran was itself "main victim of terrorism and condemns acts of terrorism in all its forms."

## OBITUARY

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Amman announces with deep grief the passing of the prominent Islamic personality

### Engineer Mahdi Bazrakan

who had served as the first prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran following the victory of the Iranian Islamic Revolution.

French participants will include Foreign Minister Juppe, Defence Minister Francois Leotard, and Budget Minister Nicolas Sarkozy. The meeting will be formally opened by Prime Minister Balladur.

cess and will eventually lead to a goal supported by Israel which is creating a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East.

He noted that the Oct. 26 Jordan-Israeli Peace treaty commits the two sides to work jointly towards the creation of a Middle East free from weapons of mass destruction.

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JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1995

## Reports: U.S. document says Iranian financed Pan Am bombing

LONDON (AP) — U.S. intelligence officials believed a former Iranian interior minister paid \$10 million in cash and gold to finance the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 which killed 270 people, according to reports obtained by British newspapers.

The former minister, identified as Ayatollah Ali Akbar Mohtashami, was also founder of the Lebanese Hezbollah group, the Times of London reported in their Tuesday editions.

The report by the super-secret U.S. National Security Agency, written during the 1991 Gulf war and declassified Monday, raises fresh questions about the U.S. and British account of the bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988, the Guardian newspaper wrote. The bombing killed all 259 people on the New York-bound plane and 11 on the ground.

Western intelligence agencies initially were reported to believe Iran commissioned a Syrian-based group, Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, to carry out the bombing after the United States accidentally shot down an Iranian airliner in July 1988.

But after a long investigation, that theory was sidelined and two Libyan intelligence officers, Abdul Basset Ali Al Megrahi and Lamia Khalifa Finah, were charged by U.S. and British law enforcement officials with being behind the bombing. Libya denies involvement and has refused to hand them over for trial, prompting U.N. sanctions against Libya.

The Guardian quoted the report as saying: "Mohtashami is closely connected with the Al Abbas and Abu Nidal terrorist groups ... he has recently paid \$10 million in cash and gold to these two organisations to carry out terrorist activities and was the one who paid the same amount to bomb Pan Am Flight 103 in retaliation for the U.S. shoot down of the Iranian Airbus."

The Guardian said the report was declassified after a request under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act by lawyers representing insurers of the now defunct Pan Am airline. The act allows the disclosure of many government documents.

The report was then obtained by the makers of a

documentary film, "The Maltese Double Cross," which challenges the official version of events. Produced by Allan Francovich and partly funded by Libyan money, it was shown to the press, diplomats and families of the victims in a room at the British parliament last November after it was banned from the London Film Festival because of American and British pressure.

It said the film sought to cover up the previously alleged Syrian connection to the bombing. The reason, the film suggests, was partly because U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency officials may have known about plans for the bombing beforehand but did nothing to thwart them because the officials feared compromising their own contacts with Palestinian groups.

In 1989, the U.S. television network ABC quoted sources which it did not identify as saying that Mr. Mohtashami made the deal with Mr. Jibril to bring down Flight 103 and that the bomb was built by three men recruited by Mr. Jibril.

Mr. Jibril publicly has denied any involvement with the bombing.

In Washington Monday, Pan Am lost a supreme court appeal of a jury's finding that it committed wilful misconduct in the bombing. The court made no comment in turning down the airline's argument that the trial judge wrongly excluded evidence that Pan Am officials thought they were complying with rules for inspecting airline baggage.

A Scottish newspaper, the Daily Record, said the United States knew of Iran's involvement more than four years ago, before Britain and the United States issued arrest warrants in 1991 for the two alleged Libyan agents.

Tough U.N. sanctions have been imposed on Libya for refusing to hand over the men accused of being solely responsible for placing the bomb on the Boeing Jumbo jet.

The Daily Record accused the United States of covering up details and added it was inconceivable Britain was not aware that the Lockerbie attack was revenge for the shooting down of an Iranian airliner by the American warship Vincennes in 1988.

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## Japan protests Qadhafi remarks on earthquake

(Earthquake) is absolutely God's revenge," the Libyan leader said.

"We were expecting it and we prayed to God to do this to Japan," he said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Terusuke Terada told a press conference that Japan would lodge a formal protest with the Libyan government through its embassy in Tripoli.

"Col. Qadhafi's statement severely hurts the relatives of the victims of the earthquake disaster and is grotesquely lacking in international common sense," Mr. Terada said. "We very much regret the statement."

Libya has been under United Nations sanctions since 1992 for refusing to hand over two Libyans suspected in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in which 270 people died.

"Despite our compassion with the innocent victims of the catastrophe...we say this

## Seminar debates women's development

BY Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Representatives of different sectors and institutions in the Kingdom and analysts on Tuesday discussed pressing problems facing development of women and population growth as a follow-up to the Cairo conference on population held in September.

But the heated debate was not over who is with or against women's rights, it was over the accuracy of the statistics and information given by the government.

In a speech entitled "Population in Jordan: Needs of Development, Actual Figures and a Future Outlook," Musa Samha from the Jordan University presented an overall view of the changes that occurred in the last three decades in the social, economic and political fields.

According to Dr. Samha, foreigners represent 25 per cent of the labour force; there has been an increase in the use of contraceptives that has "probably" reached 40 per cent at present and unemployment in 1992 was estimated at 25 per cent.

Participants in the one-day seminar, which was organised by the Jordan Environment Society in cooperation with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, took a serious interest in analysing these figures especially concerning unemployment. One participant ques-

tioned the lecturer over the accuracy of such a figure (25 per cent) since the government's estimates show unemployment rates at 14 per cent.

Another participant asked how unemployment, which was estimated at 25 per cent two years ago, could have dropped to 14 per cent at present while there are strong signs of an increase in unemployment.

"Doubts are cast over all these estimates," Dr. Samha answered the queries. "Concerned authorities hide the real figures but the fact remains that the unemployment rate is quite high."

Another issue debated was that of foreign labour in the Kingdom. Dr. Samha criticised the Jordanian mentality in terms of how parents choose for their children the kind of specialties they should take as their careers.

"All parents want their children to become engineers and doctors and employ all means to do so," he said. "While Jordanian students are willing to work abroad in restaurants and cafes, they would not do such a thing in their own country."

Almost all participants agreed on the need to upgrade the status of women but stressed that policies should be independent of any foreign influence. In an opening speech, Walter Rudel, representing the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, highlighted the

positive results the Cairo conference came up with regarding women.

"If participating countries in the Cairo conference have not reached a general agreement (over certain issues) they have at least reached a consensus over the necessity to tackle population problems and give special attention to women's issues," Mr. Rudel said.

As a result of the Cairo conference, \$17 billion will be available during the remaining years of the century to improve the education and health protection of women and children as well as the integration of women on all levels of public and economic life, he said.

"One important outcome of the Cairo conference was the concentration on better education for women," he added. "Well-educated women have a better chance to find employment and hold medium and senior positions that will (enable) them to be more independent. Working women decide for less children to give them better education and better chances in life."

Dr. Shukrullah called for the introduction of sex education at schools pointing to some statistics that show between 80 and 90 per cent of men have had sexual experience before getting married.

"In the village where I grew up we used to talk about sex and learn about it through improper means. Why are we against teaching it to our children in an appropriate manner?" he said.

## Sheikh Isa says foreign elements behind unrest

MANAMA, Bahrain (Agencies) — The emir of Bahrain said in an interview published Tuesday that intervention by neighbouring countries had sparked Shi'ite Muslim rioting in his country.

Making his first public comments on the disturbances which first erupted in December, Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa stopped short of naming the neighbours allegedly behind the unrest.

While Ms. Rashdan stressed on the need to eliminate discrimination in legislation as well as in practices, Dr. Mudaq concentrated on eliminating discrimination between sexes in vocational training. She also said the country should draw new policies in all domains that would go hand in hand with its culture and traditions.

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"There are foreign parties that we all know, who stand behind the painful incidents that took place in Bahrain," Sheikh Isa said.

"Regrettably, we are not the only ones for there are foreign parties that also direct the regrettable incidents in some Arab countries such as Algeria, Egypt and others."

"There are some neighbouring countries that interfere in our affairs. We may not be able to change or choose our neighbours, but this does not mean we will accept their interference in our internal affairs," he said.

"That is an issue which we cannot tolerate at all," Sheikh Isa added, without disclosing his options.

Street riots flared in Bahrain for two weeks in December and erupted anew last week. They were the worst trouble to hit Bahrain since an abortive coup plot blamed on Iran in 1981.

Bahrain recalled its ambassador from Tehran for consultations during the December unrest.

Bahraini authorities pointed out that actions such as the bombings "can have certainly an impact on public perceptions and on the general atmosphere" in which the peace process takes place, but she declined to get into a long-term analysis.

The acting spokeswoman pointed out that actions such as the bombings "can have certainly an impact on public perceptions and on the general atmosphere" in which the peace process takes place, but she declined to get into a long-term analysis.

The acting spokeswoman declined to characterise the Syrian side of the conversation between Mr. Christopher and Mr. Sharaf. She acknowledged she has not personally seen any "public, official response on the part of the Syrians. But that's something that the Israeli government, as recently as last night, has given."

While the United States looks to the participants in the Middle East peace process to signal their intentions, the United States will continue to facilitate contacts between the parties. "Certainly we believe that the contacts that we have helped to facilitate are an important part of that process," Ms. Shelly said, but she declined to get into a detailed discussion of the contacts.

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It's part of the ongoing dialogue," she said. "We feel that's, at this point, the most appropriate channel." The fact that there are indications that Syrian support for terrorist groups continues "is a point of concern for us," the acting spokeswoman said.

Pressed by reporters on the issue of whether or not the Palestinian authority headed by Mr. Arafat is doing enough to curb "terrorists," Ms. Shelly said statements

issued in the aftermath of incidents such as these are certainly important.

"But clearly the actions that follow those statements are even more important," she said. "Therefore, actions that seek to apprehend and to punish perpetrators in the areas which fall under the authority of the Palestinian authority—that is also something that is very important and which we track closely," she said.

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## Drug dealers lead way in Israeli-Palestinian cooperation

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Drug dealers from Israel and the Palestinian territories worked together long before the Israel-Palestinian autonomy accords, but the two sides' police officers still refuse to join forces to stamp out the illegal trade.

Moshe Rodriguez, head of Israel's drug squad, told AFP: "Israeli and Palestinian drug traffickers worked together for years before the peace accords" which launched Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho last May.

"There is no religious or nationalist discrimination in this field," he said.

He added, however: "so far there is no cooperation between Israeli police and the Palestinian self-rule au-

thority's force in the fight against drugs.

"Each force operates within its own area."

Traffickers from both sides had set up various points of sale and circulation for drugs at entrances to Arab East Jerusalem and inside the city.

These points, called Tahanut in Hebrew, operated during the day and in the evening," Mr. Rodriguez said.

In the past, the Israeli police arrested many soldiers who dealt in drugs from Lebanon, through networks which included both Israelis and Arabs, he said.

But Mr. Rodriguez denied the charges. Israeli police "have never turned a blind eye to the traffic of drugs in the West Bank or Gaza Strip."

"We have never wanted to legalise this trade in any way and will not do so in the

future," the Israeli chief added.

Colonel Jibril Rajoub, Palestinian police chief in Jericho, also bemoaned the lack of cooperation between Israel and Palestinian police" to stamp out drug-trafficking.

Palestinian policemen work alone," Mr. Rajoub said. Israeli police "are scared of us," he said.

Palestinians have repeatedly accused Israel of flooding the territories with drugs to destroy Palestinian society."

But Mr. Rodriguez denied the charges. Israeli police "have never turned a blind eye to the traffic of drugs in the West Bank or Gaza Strip."

"We have never wanted to legalise this trade in any way and will not do so in the

future," the Israeli chief added.

Other drug dealers (Terminal 2)

09:35 ..... Caro (MS)

10:30 ..... Sharq (AH)

11:30 ..... Jeddah (SV)

12:30 ..... Larnaca (KL)

13:30 ..... Athens (OA)

14:30 ..... Beirut (ME)

15:30 ..... Amsterdam (KL)

16:30 ..... Agaba (RU)

17:30 ..... Rome (RU)

18:30 ..... London (RU)

19:30 ..... Tunis, Casablanca (RU)

20:30 ..... Duba, Abu Dhabi (RU)

21:30 ..... Colombo (RU)

22:30 ..... Beirut (RU)

23:30 ..... Ruth (RU)

00:30 ..... Aden (RU)

01:30 ..... Calculta, Bangkok (RU)

02:30 ..... Sana (RU)

# Home News

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1995 3



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma presides over a meeting of ministers, deputies and women from local panels in Irbid Governorate (Petra photo)

## Princess Basma discusses women's concerns in Irbid

IRBID (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday met here with Parliament members representing the Governorate of Irbid and members of the women's committees in the Irbid region.

A dialogue took place among the participants at the meeting which included ministers and House Deputies from Irbid Governorate.

Discussion covered draft laws currently before the Lower House of Parliament designed to promote the role of women and increase their participation in public life.

Addressing the meeting, the Princess said that the women's committees in the governorate have been created to help women present their demands to Parliament.

The Princess suggested that the committees prepare periodic reports covering

women's needs in the government for presentation to the Lower House for follow up.

Nader Thubeirat, minister of municipal and rural affairs and the environment, told the meeting that his ministry will employ several qualified handicapped women in departments related to his ministry.

Deputies from the region aired their views concerning the needs of women in their region, emphasising the importance of women's roles in socio-economic development.

Minister of Health Aref Batayneh and Minister of Labour Nader Abu Sha'ar were also present at the meeting.

## Minister announces water supply plans for Jerash, Ajloun areas

JERASH (Petra) — Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat Tuesday said ministry teams will start searching for water resources and drilling artesian wells in Jerash-Governorate to help increase water supplies for residents.

Speaking during an inspection tour of the Jerash and Ajloun regions, Dr. Irsheidat said the ministry completed a study on a sewerage project for Souf town and Souf refugee camp, noting that the project would cost JD 4.2 million provided in loan form from the World Bank.

He said the ministry plans to purchase equipment specifically for use in the governorates outside Amman to help in water resources development and management.

The minister was replying to complaints presented by two Lower House deputies representing Jerash Governorate.

Miftah Ruhaimi and Suleiman Saad outlined the needs of the local citizens, particularly the water shortage and



Saleh Irsheidat

several problems encountered by sheep farmers.

They also demanded that the ministry lay sewerage networks for Souf and Sakeb towns and Souf refugee camp.

Dr. Irsheidat also listened to the views of the director of the Water Department in Irbid Governorate, Ali Qudah, and the director of the Jerash Water Department, Abdul Hamid Abu Issa.

## Fuel heater fires kill 2 women

By Rana Husseini  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two people died Monday in two separate incidents involving kerosene heaters, according to Civil Defence Department (CDD) and police reports.

In the first incident, a 73-year-old woman died in Quesimeh when a lit kerosene heater fell on her mattress.

The victim's son told police that the heating unit was near the mattress where his mother was sleeping when it was accidentally knocked over by the victim, the report said.

According to the report, the fire spread quickly in the house and the victim, Fatmeh Ali, suffered third degree burns and died before reaching the hospital.

Also in Mafrag, a 45-year-old bedouin woman died in a fire started when a lit kerosene heater fell inside her tent, police and CDD reports said.

A CDD official told the Jordan Times that the 10 family members went to sleep on Monday night and left a diesel heater lit in a small room.

The official said that a neighbour noticed smoke emitting from the windows and alerted the CDD.

All 10 people were rushed to Al Bashir Hospital. A hospital official told the Jordan Times that the two victims who are in coma are expected to survive, and that the rest of the family are expected to be discharged from hospital today.

A CDD official told the Jordan Times that the victim, Salmeh Suleiman, lived alone in the tent.

## Regent meets with Gaza commerce group

'Full preparation required for economic summit in Amman'

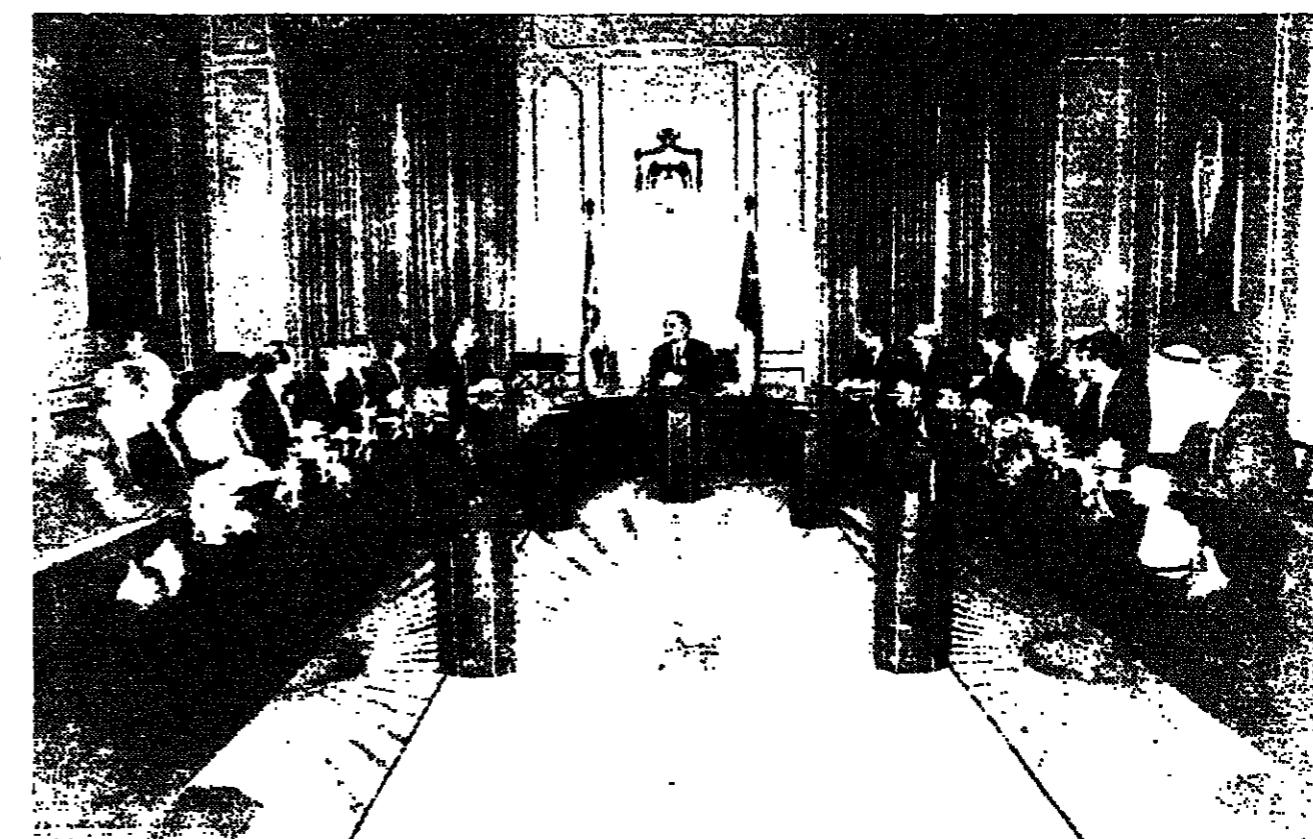
AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday reiterated Jordan's continuous support for the Palestinian people and urged more cooperation in the various areas of commerce.

Addressing a meeting of members of the Chamber of Commerce responsible for commercial, industrial and agricultural sectors in the Gaza Strip, the Crown Prince stressed the need for the Gaza chamber and Jordanian chambers to conclude agreements that would strengthen bridges of cooperation between the two sides at the regional and international levels.

Referring to the next economic Middle Eastern summit to be held in Amman this year, Prince Hassan said that chambers on both sides should prepare for this important gathering, which will tackle investment, banking and infrastructure matters, in order to devise practical recommendations for submission to the coming conference.

Saying that the two sides should remain optimistic because of the prospects of progress in the era of peace, the Crown Prince stressed the need for close and serious coordination between the two sides in matters of concern to their joint economic endeavours.

Mr. Qudweh noted that his team's visit to Jordan, to conclude agreements on



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday meets with members of a Gazan chamber of commerce delegation (Petra photo)

mutual cooperation in economic, industrial and trade matters, reflects the chamber's desire to advance the strong ties between the two sides and safeguard their national interests.

President of the Federation of the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce Haidar Murad, who last week signed with Mr. Qudweh an agreement on promoting investments and trade, said at the meeting that the two sides have agreed on measures to conduct joint programmes in trade, economic and investment areas.

Mr. Murad said that the federation will send a team soon on a visit to the Palestinian chambers to follow up on coordination, study ways to attract foreign investments and agree on topics that would be presented by the private sectors in the two countries to the Amman economic conference.

## JBA to send team to Syria for economic, trade talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) announced Tuesday that it was sending a delegation to Damascus early next month to discuss means of stimulating economic, trade and investment relations between the private sectors in Syria and Jordan.

The delegation, to be led by JBA Chairman Hamdi Tabbaa, will take place in response to an invitation by the Syrian Chambers of Commerce and the Syrian Businessmen's Association, said a JBA statement.

At least 30 Jordanians from the trade, industry, banking consultancy, contracting and tourist offices will be among the members of the delegation which is expected to sign an agreement on the founding of a joint Jordanian-Syrian business council to serve as a framework for mutual cooperation, the statement said.

The visit to Damascus comes close on the heels of a visit by Jordanian Businessmen to Iraq earlier this month when they discussed advancing economic and trade ties.

The JBA also said that it was making arrangements for JBA teams to visit Spain, France and Denmark in the near future to discuss the implementation of agreements on joint business councils recently set up with the business communities in these countries.

A JBA statement said that talks with business communities in these countries will focus on tourism, economic and trade investments and the prospects of implementing joint ventures.

Apart from the three European countries, the JBA last year signed agreements for establishing joint business councils with Malaysia and Turkey, the statement said.



Hamdi Tabbaa

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## Legislation bureau studies 'stringent' draft traffic law

By Rana Husseini  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Legislation Bureau at the Prime Ministry is studying the new draft traffic law presented by the Central Traffic Committee recently to amend some of the existing traffic rules in order to curb traffic accidents in the Kingdom, said a 'bureau official Tuesday.

The step follows His Majesty King Hussein's call on Jan. 11, for urgent action to end the chaos on the Kingdom's roads. The King had stressed that traffic problems will be one of the main priorities of the government's programme of reorganisation.

"The new proposed law is one of our main priorities and we are conducting continuous meetings with the concerned traffic officials to examine the new proposed law," an official at the bureau said.

He told the Jordan Times that the office will study the legal aspects of the draft law, then if it is approved it will be presented to a ministerial committee for consideration and approval. "Then the draft will be sent to the Cabinet and Parlia-

ment for approval," he said.

"We are trying to speed up the process so that hopefully within the next few months the traffic law will be amended and put into effect," the official said.

The draft law stipulates that the fine for passing a red light will be JD 50 to 200, or 7 to 90 days in jail.

The draft suggests three months to one year jail terms for violations such as fleeing the scene of an accident, driving while intoxicated, driving forged number plates and driving with a suspended licence.

In addition the proposed law suggests imposing higher fines up to JD 100 for wrongfully overtaking, speeding and disposing litter, oil, solid and other materials on the Kingdom's streets and highways.

Moreover, repeated violations, death-related accidents and driving while intoxicated will lead to the suspension of driving licences, and jail terms in some cases.

Minister of Interior Salameh Hammoud recently blamed motorists for the majority of road accidents and called for enacting new legislation that would help reduce such accidents, including a point system for frequent violators.

Mr. Hammoud also urged the Ministry of Public Works to correct dangerous road junctions and improve the overall safety of roads.

According to statistics released by the Traffic Department, 12,516 people were injured in 26,837 road accidents in 1994. These accidents also claimed the lives of 443 people.

Of these accidents, 4,752 were cases where pedestrians were run over by motorists. In those accidents alone, 192 people were killed, including 38 children between the ages of 5 and 10 and 60 children under the age of five.

The statistics also showed that 1,081,803 traffic citations were issued last year.

Failure to stop at stop signs represented 33 per cent of the total number of traffic violations with 357,367 citations, while vehicle inspections on the road resulted in the issuance of 144,744 citations, representing 13.4 per cent of the total.

## Government may switch new pensions to SSC

By Ian Atalla

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government is expected to move soon to curb a substantial source of public spending by switching pensions of new civil servants out of the government budget and into the Social Security Corporation (SSC), according to the director of the Ministry of Finance's Public Budget Department, Abdul Rahman Ajlouni.

"It is not certain, but personally, I believe the government will go that way," said Mr. Ajlouni.

The government's 1995 budget projects spending on pensions for retirees from public service, both civilian and military, at JD 160 million. With another

320,000 people currently on government payrolls in various capacities, according to Mr. Ajlouni, the task of providing for current and future pensioners has become an increasing chore for the treasury.

The government is suffering from the pension bill," Mr. Ajlouni said. Besides this consideration, he added, if future civil servants had their pensions tied to the SSC instead of the government budget, "they would have more mobility to go into the private sector, without losing the years they have spent in the government working towards their pension."

Currently the SSC, a public-sector company which began operations in 1980, covers pension allocations for approximately 280,000 workers in

9,200 different organisations, according to an SSC report issued earlier this month. The vast majority of those covered by the corporation, however, are private sector employees.

Mr. Ajlouni explicitly emphasised that "we will not force any civil servants" to look into private sector employment.

According to the president of the Civil Service Commission (CSC), Abdullah Ulayan, the CSC currently has 102,000 employment applications on file while job openings number only around 3,000, over 60 per cent of which are for teaching posts with the Ministry of Education. Thus, the market for any new civil service jobs is "extremely tight, to say the least," Dr. Ulayan noted.

Prominent economist Fahd Fanek, known for his staunch beliefs in fiscal conservatism, advocates one unified, government-controlled pension fund. "It would shake up the country's bureaucracy and be an excellent move," said Dr. Fanek.

If the decision were in his hands, Dr. Fanek said, "I would not only transfer new hires, but all of the existing civil service workers to the SSC as well."

SSC pensions are supported by subscription rates amounting to 15 per cent of an employee's salary, two-thirds of which is paid for by the employer and the rest is taken directly from the employee's salary. Thus, "the real cost of paying the pensions" would be accomplished in ad-

vice, as opposed to the current pension funding for civil servants via the government budget, Dr. Fanek said.

"Thus there would be no piling up of pension commitments in the national budget as there is at present. This commitment is taking on the level of a real national debt," Dr. Fanek added.

According to Dr. Ulayan, "recommendations from international and regional institutions" support phasing pensions of new civil servants out of the government budget, and urge a freeze in giving any classified civil service contracts to new hires "to prevent further inflation in the size of the civil service labour pool."

"The consideration of the burden on the public treasury is important," said Dr. Ulayan. "But we should also pay attention to how civil service employees will themselves be affected."

Financial researcher Ahmad Namnami took a similar stance.

"If it would help lighten the public debt, I would say that it is definitely not a mistake to switch the pension coverage over to the SSC. However, care should be taken to fully maintain any benefits and privileges which civil servants currently have when such a move is made."

As for when the government would make such a move or not, Mr. Ajlouni said that would happen as soon as the official civil service manning tables for 1995 are issued.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### THIRD JORDANIAN DRAMA FESTIVAL

★ Two plays (in Arabic) entitled "The Goat Island" and "Coloured Rain" respectively at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.

### FILM

★ Film entitled "Licence To Kill" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

### POETRY RECITAL

★ Poetry recital by Marwan Hamdan, Ahmad Kanani, and Mohammad Zaki at the Phoenix Gallery for

### CULTURE AND ART AT 6:30 p.m.

### LECTURE

★ Lecture (in Arabic) entitled "A Reading in the Literature of Travels" by Mr. Ziyad Al Hashemi at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:00 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of Children's works (from Haya Centre drawing and painting classes) at Goethe Institute.

★ Exhibition of works by Iraqi artist Fakhri Muhammed at the Ab'd Art Gallery.

### EMBASSY OF INDIA AMMAN

### REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA

On the occasion of the Republic Day of India, a flag hoisting ceremony will be held on Thursday, January 26, 1995 at 10 a.m. at the premises of the Embassy of India, First Circle Jabal Amman (Opp. Malhas Hospital).

All Indians with their family members are cordially invited to attend the function.

# World News

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1995

## North Korea to put 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods in concrete

Officers summoned for Pyongyang military rally

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SEOUL, South Korea (Agencies) — North Korea has agreed to put 8,000 corrodng rods of spent nuclear fuel in dry concrete as part of a new nuclear deal with the United States, a diplomatic source in Seoul said Tuesday.

The South Korean source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the agreement was made at six days of U.S.-North Korea talks that ended in Pyongyang Monday.

The fate of the 8,000 spent fuel rods that North Korea unilaterally removed from its experimental 5-megawatt nuclear reactor last May was a key issue of contention left after the Oct. 21 U.S.-North Korea nuclear deal.

Experts have warned that reprocessing of the 8,000 spent fuel rods, being kept temporarily in a cooling pond, could give the communist North enough weapons-grade plutonium to make four to five atomic bombs.

At the Pyongyang talks that began last Wednesday, the United States and North Korea reached agreement on all technical issues related to dry storage of the fuel rods, the South Korean source said.

The source said a team of U.S. specialists, joined by experts from the U.N. International Atomic Energy

Agency (IAEA), is expected to begin work on the dry storage as early as next week. Experts say dry concrete is one of the safest ways of storing spent fuel rods to prevent them from corroding and giving off radioactivity. The rods could erode if kept in the cooling ponds.

North Korea's official news agency said Monday the U.S.-North Korea talks in Pyongyang resulted in "significant progress." It did not report details.

Under the Oct. 21 nuclear framework agreement, the North's spent fuel rods to be kept in dry concrete must be transferred to a third country by 2002, when the first of two new modern reactors is built in the North.

The second reactor is scheduled to be completed one year later.

The two U.S.-arranged light-water reactors, worth \$4 billion, are key part of the framework agreement, under which North Korea must freeze and eventually dismantle its nuclear programme, suspected of being used for weapons development.

In addition, North Korea also is to receive substitute fuel oil and limited U.S. diplomatic recognition. As a first step toward normalising relations, the United States and North Korea have agreed to exchange liaison offices.

Meanwhile, monitors in Seoul Tuesday said North Korea has summoned ideology vanguard officers into its tightly controlled capital for a major military rally this week to solicit loyalty to their new leader, Kim Jong-il.

In a broadcast monitored here Monday, North Korea's official media reported the arrival in Pyongyang of army vanguards responsible for ideological indoctrination, said the South's official monitoring agency, Naewoo Press.

"Our immediate concern is about whether Kim Jong-il would show up," the Naewoo analyst said.

North rejects Northeast Asian security dialogue

In another development, Monday, North Korea said it was opposed to regional talks aimed at promoting a security dialogue among northeast Asian countries, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

"We oppose the appearance of any multilateral forum of security dialogue" in this region, a North Korean foreign ministry spokesman was quoted as saying by the agency in a dispatch monitored here.

The forum was proposed earlier this month by Japanese Defence Agency Director-General Tokuchiro Tamazawa, who said he wanted China, Japan, North and South Korea, Russia and the United States to discuss security in northeast Asia.

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"The rally, revived for the first time in 12 years, also appears aimed at preventing ideological agitation within the military following Kim Il-Sung's death in July," a Naewoo analyst told AFP.

The previous rally was held in 1983 with some 6,000 officers summoned to take a loyalty oath to the junior Kim before his official debut in China as the successor to his charismatic father.

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The junior Kim, accompanied by top military leaders, attended the 1983 rally in a show of leadership over the North's powerful armed forces.

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# World News

## Constitution-making process underway in South Africa

CAPE TOWN (AFP) — South Africa's politicians Tuesday began the mammoth task of writing a new constitution within 16 months from the status of the Zulu monarch in the new South Africa.

The ANC and the NP have

since been reluctant to press ahead with arbitration, believing it to be unnecessary and waste of time.

But the IFP's Koos van der Merwe, speaking before parliament Monday, accused the ANC and the NP of renegeing on their "solemn promise of international mediation."

The ANC believes that if the IFP pushes the issue, the constitution-making process could be delayed for several months.

The NP is also considering adopting constitutional positions far removed from those of the majority ANC.

At the party's annual congress in Johannesburg last week, delegates proposed that the enforced power-sharing provided in the present interim constitution be extended for another 10 to 15 years.

The ANC's stated position is that the government of national unity, which allocates cabinet seats on the basis of the percentage of

votes received, should be scrapped and straight majority rule implemented.

The ANC also favours a strong central government, while the NP and the IFP call for devolution of powers to the country's nine provinces.

Despite the obvious areas of conflict, parliamentarians from all parties are optimistic that a final constitution can be agreed without having to resort to special deadlock-breaking mechanisms.

To be approved, the new constitution will require the support of two-thirds of the Constitutional Assembly — the ANC is just short of that figure.

If the Constitutional Assembly cannot agree, the interim constitution calls for a referendum to break the deadlock.

One ANC MP warned of "terrible problems" if parties refused to approach the issue in a spirit of compromise, saying the process could become bogged down as were the protracted negotiations that produced the interim constitution.

Those talks in Johannesburg were characterised by frequent breakdown and walkouts by the IFP.

## Tamil group accuses rival rebels of truce violations

COLOMBO (AFP) — A Tamil group Tuesday said it feared for the safety of its cadre after discovering that rival Tamil separatist rebels were violating a truce with the government by carrying arms into military-held areas of Sri Lanka's northeast.

In a letter to Deputy Defence Minister Anuruddha Ratnayake, the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Elam (PLOTE) said Tamil Tiger rebels were "roaming with weapons."

The PLOTE said that the "serious violations" by Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam (LTTE) guerrillas "threatened the safety" of its unarmed cadres in the eastern province.

Under the truce accord signed between President Chandrika Kumaratunga and LTTE chief Velupillai Prabhakaran, the rebels

could only enter government-controlled areas in the east without weapons.

But on Monday police detained two senior LTTE cadres carrying weapons in eastern Batticaloa district, officials said.

Police set the rebels free but kept back an automatic weapon and grenades after negotiations between the two sides, officials said.

The truce between the rebels and security forces continued for a 17th day Tuesday but defence officials privately admit that "minor violations" by the LTTE were intensifying with each passing day.

Police decided to keep the weapons as evidence that the Tigers are violating the cessation of hostilities," a senior military official said.

The Sri Lankan government has acknowledged a series of "minor violations,"

by the LTTE but has attributed them to poor communications between the rebels' own high command and cadres in the field.

Tamil groups had warned ahead of the truce that the militants would exploit the truce.

Sri Lanka OK's VOA

In another development Sri Lanka has approved with "modifications" construction of a controversial relay station for the U.S. state radio Voice of America (VOA), Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar said Tuesday.

Officials said they hoped the decision to approve an agreement on the station signed by Washington and the previous government would help Sri Lanka obtain higher garment export quotas to the United States.

"There are many problems which we are unable to solve in a short period of time, but generally speaking our goals are consistent," Mr. Chiao added.

The television said that under the agreements both hijackers and illegal immigrants from China would be repatriated swiftly and not be subjected to Taiwan's legal system.

It did not say, however, whether 16 hijackers currently in jail in Taiwan would be repatriated after their sentences are served. Taipei has in the past expressed fears that they might be executed after their return.

The high-level talks, which run through Jan. 26, are the third between Mr. Chiao and Mr. Tang.

## Defence witness says she saw Simpson's car; judge allows bloody scene photos

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In a move that surprised prosecutors, lawyers for O.J. Simpson contended Monday that a witness saw the ex-football player's Ford Bronco parked at his house about the time his ex-wife and her friend were murdered two miles (three kilometres) away.

The prosecution, upset about the defence offering last-minute witness asked superior court judge Lance Ito for a one-week delay in the trial's opening statements. There was no immediate ruling from the judge.

In a hearing marked by unusual developments, Mr. Simpson asked the judge for permission to talk to jurors for about a minute before his attorney's opening statement.

Then he wants to show jurors his scars, injuries and physical limitations while lead defence attorney Johnnie Cochran Jr. delivers his remarks.

"Mr. Simpson will not say or do anything objectionable or otherwise procedurally inappropriate," said the request, signed by Mr. Cochran.

Mr. Ito didn't immediately rule on the request.

In the final countdown of court action before opening statements were to begin in one of the most sensational murder trials in U.S. history, Mr. Ito ruled that jurors will get to see bloody crime scene photographs of the victims' bodies during opening statements despite defence objections.

Mr. Ito turned aside a defence request to make the prosecution use diagrams instead of photos of the scene. However, the judge barred the prosecution from using police photos of tests of blood stains from Mr. Simpson's bathroom.

Mr. Ito also put off until next month a hearing on whether Simpson's ex-wife Marquette Simpson Thomas would be called to testify about whether she was abused by her husband.



Eunice Simpson (in wheelchair), the mother of double murder defendant O.J. Simpson, is helped outside the courthouse where opening statements in the high-profile murder trial began Jan. 23 (AFP photo).

The defence papers said.

"No one — so far as is known — saw the glove prior to, or at the time of, Mr. Fuhrman's alleged find," the defence wrote. "The glove got to this spot because someone carried it there."

The opening statements, could be crucial. The time was nearly at hand for the truth, as narrowly defined by the criminal justice system, to emerge before the only audience that counts: The jury deciding Mr. Simpson's fate.

The presumption by most criminal lawyers is that jurors make up their minds after opening statements, and the trial is there just to confirm or refute their original idea," said Harland Braun, a long-time defence attorney in Los Angeles.

In allegedly withholding this information, Mr. Fuhrman left himself open to accusations he may have planted a bloody glove at Simpson's house, a glove that matched one at the murder

## Big power envoys push for peace in Bosnia talks; fighting surges in Bihać

SARAJEVO (R) — A re-newed surge in fighting in the Bihać pocket in northwest Bosnia marred a truce holding in the rest of the country Tuesday as big power mediators arrived in Sarajevo to push for a peace settlement.

Contact group governments want to build on the four-month ceasefire, the most durable in Bosnia so far. The truce received a further boost Monday with a follow-up accord on supply routes into Sarajevo, prisoner exchanges and the free movement of civilians.

The bulk of the heavy weapons firing would appear to be the responsibility of RSK (Croatian Serb) and Mr. Abdic forces who we believe are conducting company level probing attacks... south of Velika Kladusa," he told reporters.

The United Nations has urged rebel Muslims and Croatian Serbs to sign the Bosnia ceasefire, but its main concern is to keep Bosnian Serbs and the Bosnia's Muslim-led army from each other's throats to ensure the truce takes root.

The U.N. blamed the surge in fighting on Muslim forces loyal to Serb-backed Muslim tycoon Fikret Abdic who has led a campaign against Bosnia's Muslim-led government in an attempt to carve out an

autonomous Muslim province within Bosnia.

Mr. Koos later said the U.N. believed rebel Serb forces from Croatia were also involved.

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The U.N. reports of minor violations indicated that the cease-fire agreement was still a shaky one.

Mr. Sol said Serb snipers resurfaced in Sarajevo Monday for the first time this year

with seven rounds fired into the Holiday Inn Hotel. Serb and government soldiers also exchanged small arms fire in the vicinity of the Jewish cemetery near a frontline in the capital.

Colin Murphy, the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) deputy civil affairs chief in Bosnia, said Serbs and the Bosnian government reaffirmed plans for the release of all war detainees, the free movement of civilians and for medical evacuations from Muslim enclaves when needed.

Asked whether UNPROFOR had any grounds for optimism after a similar agreement to implement the Dec. 31 ceasefire terms went nowhere, Mr. Murphy replied:

"My own perception is that both sides (Bosnia's Serbs and Muslims) see this opportunity as a very real opportunity for peace," Rose said.

The two sides agreed to

## Indian troops hunt for Muslim rebels in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AFP)

— Indian troops cordoned off vast areas of this Kashmir summer capital Tuesday and launched a house-to-house sweep for Muslim separatist guerrillas ahead of India's Republic Day Thursday.

Hundreds of soldiers in

battle fatigues, backed by paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) and police, laid siege before dawn to residential quarters in the vicinity of the giant Bakshi sports stadium, police sources said.

"There are many problems which we are unable to solve in a short period of time, but generally speaking our goals are consistent," Mr. Chiao added.

The television said that under the agreements both hijackers and illegal immigrants from China would be repatriated swiftly and not be subjected to Taiwan's legal system.

It did not say, however, whether 16 hijackers currently in jail in Taiwan would be repatriated after their sentences are served. Taipei has in the past expressed fears that they might be executed after their return.

The high-level talks, which run through Jan. 26, are the third between Mr. Chiao and Mr. Tang.

## Sierra Leone rebels release hostages

GENEVA (AFP) — Two hostages kidnapped in Sierra Leone, a Russian and a Sierra Leone national, were released Tuesday in neighbouring Guinea to Red Cross workers by people

saying they belonged to Sierra Leone's rebel front, a Red Cross spokesman here said.

There have been several kidnappings in Sierra Leone in recent months that the military government in Freetown has blamed on the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), which has been fighting the government for the last four years.

Tony Burgen, for the International Committee of the Red Cross said the two hostages were turned over to ICRC representatives in Guekedou, near Guinea's southeastern border.

He said people "presenting themselves as members of the Revolutionary United Front turned over the two hostages."

Mr. Burgen said the ICRC would try to maintain contact with the RUF to obtain the release of the other foreigners. Reports from Freetown say 11 foreigners have been taken as

hostages by the RUF since the fifth and final seat on a transitional ruling council.

The dispute, between Liberia's former national army and a coalition of smaller militias, blocked the Jan. 11 installation of the council

Agreed in a pre-Christmas accord — the latest in a string of deals to end five years of civil war.

Liberia, set up by freed American slaves in 1847, has been racked by civil war since former civil servant Charles Taylor invaded from Ivory Coast in late 1989. The war has killed 150,000 people and most Liberians are refugees or displaced.

Ghanaians said Liberia's warlords, who were all in Accra, would announce whether they had settled a dispute over who should fill the fifth and final seat on a transitional ruling council.

The dispute, between Liberia's former national army and a coalition of smaller militias, blocked the Jan. 11 installation of the council

Foul weather claims at least 7 lives in Europe

dubbed the floods of the century.

STORMS sweeping northern Europe since the weekend have claimed at least seven lives, according to reports from across the continent Monday.

In Germany at least three people were killed in storms in the southwest of the country, the authorities said.

Overnight Sunday a Belgian man was killed and five people were seriously injured in a road crash when winds blew an oncoming truck into the path of their car.

In north Rhine-Westphalia, a soldier in Trier, just 1.6 metres below the level at which the whole town would be in danger, according to a police spokesman.

The Moselle reached 9.40 metres per hour were recorded, and several rivers rose above the levels they reached around Christmas 1993, when Germany suffered what at the time were

is's head of state General Sani Abacha, President Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso, President Lansana Conte of Guinea and Ivory Coasts Foreign Minister Amara Essey were attending.

A representative from Sierra Leone was also expected.

The Dec. 21 accord included a timetable for disarmament leading to elections in November. A ceasefire took effect Dec. 28 and appears to be holding. Despite isolated reports of violations, no-one has spoken of a return to all-out war.

Ghanaians President Jerry Rawlings called the minister-summit as chairman of the Economic Community of West African States. Niger

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In Rhineland-Palatinate, several villages were submerged by steady downpours Monday, and meteorologists predicted more rain.

A police van at the scene was also blown into the ditch. Although no-one was hurt.

High winds and ice severely disrupted road traffic in northeastern Poland, and three Baltic ferries were marooned in port. Weathermen said the winds were gusting up to 65 knots.

In the Netherlands, it was feared the Meuse could exceed the critical level overnight Monday, and a crisis centre was set up in Maasricht in the southeast of the country.

High winds and hail caused severe damage in the central region of Zwolle over the weekend, and three windmills were knocked out of action at Willemsstad in the south when the gales ripped chunks out of the sails.

# Opinion & Analysis

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1995

## Jordan Times

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## Space for tolerance

THE RECENT incarceration of Adel Hussein, the secretary general of the Egyptian Labour Union, by Egyptian authorities has clearly galvanised opposition from not only the Egyptian Press Association but also from the bar association and other professional groups in the country. At stake for all those who made their opposition to the imprisonment of Mr. Hussein loud and clear was the liberty and freedom of thought and expression.

Before he was released, some political activists went as far as going on a hunger strike to drive home their concern about the fate of human rights in Egypt.

Without going into the merits or demerits of the case presented against Mr. Hussein, one has to note that there is still an apparent low threshold of tolerance for opposing views not only in Egypt but elsewhere in the Arab World. On some occasions, even the most benign rejection of state policy incurs the wrath of Arab governments. This leads us to conclude that the culture of human rights has yet to spring deep and lasting roots in our societies. To be sure the lack of a culture for freedom of thought can be attributed not only to governments but also to opposition groups and other elements in society. Yet we know only too well that there has not been a single people which was able to enter the stage of reformation and enlightenment without the benefit of free flow of ideas including those that may appear to so many of us as unpopular or unacceptable. Obviously there is no quick fix to cultivating a culture for genuine human rights. It has taken generations for other societies to develop such a culture, and it looks like it is also going to take us some time, here in the Arab World, to reach libertarian ideals and goals.

The burden of promoting and protecting tolerance and democracy must rest not only on the shoulders of political liberals: All democrats, whether conservative in orientation or leftist or otherwise, must join forces to uphold the culture of democracy, pluralism and human rights. Where the work should or could be done is not a subject of argument or controversy. Political parties' headquarters, institutions of higher learning and the media are the natural places to begin and augment the effort. Progressively, new institutions have to be established and supported. But we have to start now.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

TAREQ MASARWEH a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, Tuesday said that Sunday's suicide bombings in Israel are one form of resistance to Israeli occupation similar to acts carried out by the Lebanese resistance in southern Lebanon. Saying that the Rabin government seems unable to stop suicide attacks carried out by Palestinians, the writer said that acts of violence will not end by holding the Palestine National Authority (PNA) responsible for attacks on Israeli targets. The Israeli government, said the writer, realises that it was due to a series of suicide attacks in Lebanon that the Americans and the Israelis were forced to abandon their occupation of Beirut. The Palestinian resistance, which is now transforming the stone-throwing intifada into bombing attacks, could at the end force the Israelis out of the occupied Arab lands, said the writer. He said the Israelis should realise that the Palestinians, who were evicted from their homes since 1948 under the force of acts of Jewish terrorism, are now paying back in the same coin. The Israelis are now facing the consequences of their own acts against the Palestinians, who have been oppressed, killed, imprisoned or evicted from their towns and villages for decades, he added.

A WRITER in Al Dusour urged the Social Security Corporation (SSC) to take measures to design a health insurance plan for hundreds of thousands of people living around the poverty line. Ahmad Shaker said that the SSC holdings are in the hundreds of millions of dinars and the corporation is in a position to initiate this system and provide health insurance to Jordanians for certain monthly payments. Such a plan would not only be in implementation of the present government's drive to improve the living conditions of poor and needy people, but would also ensure more stable and secure lives for the majority of the Jordanians, said the writer. Many retired people have no medical insurance, said the writer. The SSC, which has been hesitant to take steps towards introducing a comprehensive health insurance plan, said the writer, should realise that there are numerous benefits in the implementation of such a scheme.

## Washington Watch

### 30 years later, Martin Luther King's dream still denied

'What happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up?... Or does it explode?'

IT WAS just three decades ago that the American civil rights movement, led by Dr. Martin Luther King, succeeded in pressuring the U.S. Congress to pass into law the Civil Rights Act of 1965. It was an amazing period of transformation and hope in American society.

Thirty years later, an entire generation of Americans have no recollection of the era of legal segregation and discrimination under which African-Americans were denied the right to vote, use public facilities, eat at the same restaurants as whites, live in "white" neighbourhoods or go to "white" schools. Even fewer Americans know that the despised system of apartheid that governed the lives of South African blacks was based on the racist system that had been imposed on African-Americans in the south of the U.S. and which lasted for almost 100 years.

The civil rights movement, led by Dr. King, exposed the evils of segregation in the south and challenged whites in the north to face up to their own less formal system of social discrimination that denied African-Americans rights in almost every sector of U.S. political and social life.

The decade of the 1960s was a time of great hope and change. Two democratic presidents, John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson moved, at first with hesitation but ultimately with great vigour, to make real the promise of equality and justice for African-Americans.

Schools were ordered to be desegregated and racially integrated. And where racist state governors and mayors resisted, federal soldiers were used to escort African-American children to school. Restaurants and other public places were ordered desegregated and racist housing laws were abolished. And in 1965, when the voting rights of African-Americans were guaranteed, race could no longer be used as a basis for denying the right to vote or to impose barriers which made voting more difficult.

The non-violent mass movement of hundreds of thousands, led by Dr. King, energised and gave hope to African-Americans, challenged the conscience of the nation's leaders and reshaped the U.S. legal landscape. While all of this must be recognised as positive and significant steps forward, it must also be understood that 30 years later, African-Americans remain disproportionately poor, crowded into increasingly dilapidated inner city ghetto housing, and victims of racial bias in the economic, social and political spheres.

It was 32 years ago that Dr. King spoke of his dream from the steps of Lincoln Memorial in the U.S. capital, where he said:

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal.' ... I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character."

Today, King's dream is still not a reality for the majority of African-Americans in the U.S. And, moreover, there have been some reverses of the progress that was made in

the 1960s.

Government-led programmes to produce integration have made white bitterness as a by-product. "Affirmative action" programmes, which were designed to give American-Americans compensatory opportunities to make up for the opportunities denied to them during the three centuries of slavery and institutional racism, have also produced a feeling among some whites that they are being denied opportunities, that such programmes have gone too far and must be stopped or reversed. And while this sentiment is particularly prevalent in the south, it is a national phenomenon.

From the height of the civil rights movement in the 1960s and the support it received from Democratic presidents and the Democratic Congress, there has been an erosion of southern white support for the Democratic Party. Republicans have actively courted these alienated white voters (a disproportionate number of whom are men). As the November elections demonstrated, the shift of southern white voter allegiance to the Republican Party produced the Republican takeover of Congress. This shift will result in a negative impact on federal social programmes primarily targeted to assist African-Americans.

Republican victories based in part on calling for an end to those social programmes designed in the 1960s have caused even some Democrats to abandon this agenda. African-Americans are watching these changes, which are causing them to feel even more isolated as they watch support for their concerns fade in Washington, even in people who were once considered allies.

Earlier in this century, Langston Hughes, an African-American poet, wrote:

"What happens to a dream deferred?  
Does it dry up?  
Like a raisin in the sun?  
Or fester like a sore — ...  
Maybe it just sags  
Like a heavy load.  
Or does it explode?"

The effects of these denied dreams on African-Americans, of their growing sense of frustration and loss, and of what has now become endemic poverty and deprivation, have been devastating.

As Reverend Jesse Jackson, an early follower of Dr. King, and one of the leading voices in the African-American community today, has noted that the prolonged pain of African-Americans has become internalised and has produced self-destructive behaviour, especially among the young. In a speech on the crisis facing African-American youths, delivered a year ago, Reverend Jackson observed:

"... The combination of social and economic neglect on the one hand and aggressive negative rhetoric and actions on the other — by both political parties, the private sector, our education and health care systems, along with inadequate housing and environmental racism — over a protracted period of time, has resulted in turning serious problems into institutionalised conditions with violent consequences. It has produced an underclass of people with aggressive negative self-esteem ... They value neither their own life nor the life of another."

The statistics are overwhelming and disheartening. African-American unemployment remains more than twice that of whites (13.8 per cent to 6.2 per cent). Among young African-American men, aged 18-35, the unemployment rate is 31 per cent. The percentage of African-American families living below the official poverty line is a staggering 33 per cent, while only 11 per cent of white families are poor. This deep disparity exists even among those who work. The average white family income is \$40,000, while the average income for an African-American family is only \$22,000.

M. KAHL



### Murky political landscape for post-Yeltsin Russia

By Larry Ryckman  
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia's bloody war in Chechnya and the chaos in the Kremlin are forcing Western leaders to look beyond Boris Yeltsin.

They might not like what they see. The view of Moscow's political landscape is murky at best, with no clear successors to the Russian president emerging from the shadows.

Volatile Russian politics can turn on a kopek, but at the moment it seems no one could be elected, including especially, Mr. Yeltsin. His five-year term expires in June 1996, and it is not clear whether he'll even seek reelection.

Russians have long been cynical about their leaders, but the anger and disgust now directed at all political factions is starting. Not a single major figure, from ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky to reformer Yegor Gaidar, has escaped the tarnish of public life.

For some, that raises the troubling prospect of ambitious generals or Kremlin cabals conspiring to ensure that the next presidential election is never held.

The man many in the West would like to see in charge, former prime

minister Gaidar, is too closely associated with the increasingly unpopular president and his even more unpopular economic reforms.

Mr. Gaidar has broken with Mr. Yeltsin over Chechnya, but his appeals for mass anti-war demonstrations have generated about as much enthusiasm as his cold, professorial campaign speeches.

Mr. Zhirinovsky, who declared his presidential candidacy yet again this week, reformers in parliamentary elections.

His many campaign promises have gone unkept and his outrageous pronouncements elicit more shivers than shock. Today, he is the only top politician more distrusted than Mr. Yeltsin in public opinion surveys.

"In any election, (Zhirinovsky) can't receive more than 10 per cent," said Yuri Levada, the director of the Russian Centre for Public Opinion and Market Research. "He is a really unpopular person."

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, second in power only to Mr. Yeltsin, would have to be considered the favourite in a presidential race. U.S. Vice President Al Gore has maintained close contacts

with Mr. Chernomyrdin, a former director of the Soviet Union's giant natural gas industry.

Mr. Chernomyrdin presents a solid, image, but he seems uncomfortable with the speech-making and glad-handing of modern politics. Still, some believe this lack of spark could be appealing to a public tired of turmoil.

One newspaper said Mr. Chernomyrdin had boosted his chances by stepping forward in the past week as a peacemaker in the Chechen crisis.

"If the day before yesterday the world was still trying to guess whether there was an alternative to Boris Yeltsin, today some will probably see the answer in the face of the prime minister," the daily Commersant said Tuesday.

Like Gaidar, however, Mr. Chernomyrdin is a closely linked with Mr. Yeltsin, a factor that could hurt him in a national election.

Another close Yeltsin associate, Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, is often mentioned as a possible candidate for president in 1996, but his support outside the capital remains in question.

Contenders less palatable in Western circles are

Communist Party chief Gennady Zyuganov and former vice president Alexander Rutskoi. Although communists have returned to power in some former Soviet satellites, there appears to be little appetite in Russia for either man.

With all of the disdain for professional politicians, it is perhaps not surprising that an outside was the one national figure to see his standing rise in the past year.

Gen. Alexander Lebed, Russia's most outspoken soldier, openly admires Chile's former dictator, Gen. Augusto Pinochet, but says he has no plans to seek the presidency himself.

His public criticism of Mr. Yeltsin as a "minus" would have gotten him fired in any other country, but Gen. Lebed is apparently too popular to touch. For now, the commander of Russia's 14th Army would apparently settle for the job of defence minister, when and if it becomes available.

"My bet is, if we have new elections, most likely our new president will come from outside the Moscow establishment," said Andrei Korotov, an analyst with the Institute of the USA and Canada.

### Israeli economy spells trouble for Rabin

By Tova Cohen  
Reuter

million from company self-offs, well down from \$1.2 billion in 1993.

"The government does not seem prepared to do anything," Mr. Trotoush said.

Israelis' dissatisfaction with the government's handling of the economy has led to infighting among cabinet members.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal stoked the embers before a cabinet meeting on Sunday, sending Mr. Rabin a scathing criticism of Finance Minister Avraham Shohat's economic policy.

Local media quoted Mr. Shahal's report as saying the government was "hurting full speed toward an economic disaster."

But all ministers could agree on, after a marathon meeting, was to lower the volume on their debate over who was to blame.

And analysts see little prospect for improvement in 1995.

"I don't see the problem of the balance of payments being solved in 1995," said Hezy Gutman, head of economics at the powerful Manufacturers' Association.

The civilian trade deficit ballooned to \$8.3 billion in 1994 from \$6 billion in 1993 and Mr. Gutman does not expect this figure to narrow in 1995.

Exporters say another problem is the shekel, which has been propped up by high domestic interest rates. The Bank of Israel has resisted all calls for a devaluation.

"They (the bank) say a devaluation will cause instability but an appreciation is just unstable," Mr. Gutman said.

He drew comparisons with Mexico, whose economy plunged into a crisis last month when the government allowed the peso to float freely. The result was a 35 per cent devaluation.

# Home Text between

FOLLOWING is the text of the Jordanian-Palestinian Committee which ended its Preamble

Stemming from the historic and deep-rooted ties between the Jordanian and the Palestinian peoples, and with the aim of common interests and goals, and reiterating the desire of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Palestine to achieve the highest level of cooperation and integration in all fields, based on the closest ties that prove a solid ground for elevating bilateral relations to advanced levels and integrating in the interests of both peoples within the context of a common future, and to enhance and support all good efforts exerted with our brothers in the Arab countries to attain the aspired goals and boost the standing of our Arab Nation and enable it to confront the challenges, and as an expression of our common aspirations and noble goals that are sought by both parties, the two sides have agreed that it is crucial to formulate a unified strategy based on the following principles:

1. The necessity of comprehensive and constant coordination between the two sides to attain the common goals in the interest of both peoples
2. The two sides affirm that Jordanian-Palestinian relations are special and unique and constitute a model to enhance the potentials and capabilities of the Arab Nation and to extend bridges of trust, understanding and cooperation among the Arab people, enabling the Arab Nation to assume its responsibilities and its deserved place (in the international community), especially in the light of international developments.
3. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan reiterated its constant and continuous support for the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), to attain their right to self-determination on their national soil and to establish an independent Palestinian state, and to support the Palestinian quest to implement the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles (DOP) as a step towards the realisation of the Palestinian people's national rights.
4. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan will cooperate with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in all fields, and will provide all the needed expertise to build national institutions capable of assuming their responsibilities and tasks in the interests of the Palestinian people.
5. The two sides reiterated their commitment to the concept of a comprehensive solution on the basis of international legitimacy and United Nations Security Council resolutions 242, 338, and 435 and the restoration of all legitimate rights.
6. The two sides pledge to work jointly towards inter-Arab reconciliation and the achievement of Arab solidarity in the interest of the brotherly peoples and all the Arab Nation in order to boost opportunities for a just peace that will guarantee security and development for the good of all the Arab people, to consolidate (the Arab Nation's) collective belonging and to safeguard human dignity and dignity.

Frank (Continued from page 12) Jordan-Israel peace treaty, he said. In the Israel-PLO context, the EU fully supported the Palestinian rejection of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories and the Palestinian right to self-determination in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, for the rights of every people, including Israel. We deem the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories as illegal," he said. "We stand and are clearly known to stand, and we consistently demand that Israel

# Home & Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1995

## Text of draft accord between Jordan, PNA

**FOLLOWING** is the text of the draft agreement concluded by the Jordanian-Palestinian Economic and Financial Committee which ended its meetings in Amman Monday:

### Preamble

Stemming from the historic and deep-rooted ties between the Jordanian and the Palestinian peoples, and with the aim of the attainment of common interests and goals, and reiterating the desire of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Palestine to achieve the highest level of cooperation and integration in all fields, based on the close ties that prove a solid ground for elevating bilateral relations to advanced levels and integration in the interests of both peoples within the context of a common future, and to enhance and support all good efforts exerted with our brothers in the Arab countries to attain the aspired goals and boost the standing of our Arab Nation and enable it to confront the challenges, and as an expression of our common aspirations and noble goals that are sought by both parties, the two sides have agreed that it is crucial to formulate a unified strategy based on the following principles:

1. The necessity of comprehensive and constant coordination between the two sides to attain the common goals in the interest of both peoples.

2. The two sides affirm that Jordanian-Palestinian relations are special and unique and constitute a model to enhance the potentials and capabilities of the Arab Nation and to extend bridges of trust, understanding and cooperation among the (Arab) people, enabling the Arab Nation to assume its responsibilities and its deserved place (in the international community), especially in the light of international developments.

3. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan reiterated its constant and continuous support for the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), to attain their right to self-determination on their national soil and to establish an independent Palestinian state, and to support the Palestinian quest to implement the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles (DoP) as a step towards the realisation of the Palestinian people's national rights.

4. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan will cooperate with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in all fields, and will provide all the needed expertise to build national institutions capable of assuming their responsibilities and tasks in the interests of the Palestinian people.

5. The two sides reiterate their commitment to the concept of a comprehensive solution on the basis of international legitimacy and United Nations Security Council resolutions 242, 338, and 435 and the restoration of all legitimate rights.

6. The two sides pledge to work jointly towards inter-Arab reconciliation and the achievement of Arab solidarity in the interest of the brotherly peoples and all of the Arab Nation in order to boost opportunities for a just peace that will guarantee security and development for the good of the Arab people, to consolidate (the Arab Nation's) collective belonging, and to safeguard human rights and dignity.

7. The two pledge continuous cooperation and coordination in all regional and international forums and organisations to serve the interests of both sides and the higher Arab interests.

8. The agreement that Jordan signed with Israel on Oct. 26, 1994 constitutes an important step towards the restoration of Jordan's sovereign rights on its land, water and borders and towards securing the rights of (Palestinian) refugees displaced in 1948 and 1967 in accordance with international laws and resolutions. The agreement also enhances the other tracks of negotiations in a way that secures the attainment of Arab legitimate rights.

9. In order to complement all aspects of coordination and consultation and to serve the interests of the two peoples, the two sides believe it is crucial to reactivate the Jordanian-Palestinian higher committee to follow up mutual issues of concern, and provide an appropriate mechanism that would ensure the realisation of the two peoples' interests through constant and direct contacts.

### First: Monetary Affairs

1. The two sides agree that the Jordanian dinar will remain the currency in use in addition to the other currencies in circulation in the self-rule areas.

Being so, it will be a legal means for payment for all purposes and official dealings and procedures and will be accepted by the Palestine National Authority (PNA) and its various institutions as well as banks.

2. The two sides agree to committing themselves to entering into comprehensive and early negotiations aimed at organising the process of exchanging Jordanian dinars in the self-rule areas for local Palestinian currency. They also commit themselves to taking arrangements and other obligations required in this respect should the PNA decide to have separate Palestinian currency.

The two sides also pledge to refrain from taking any abrupt unilateral measures concerning monetary affairs under any circumstances that could adversely affect the monetary stability in any of the two countries or negatively affect their mutual economic dealings.

3. The Palestinian side undertakes to make all local payments in the Jordanian dinar until the new Palestinian currency has been issued.

### Second: Banking

#### 1. The licensing of banks in PNA areas

1.1 The PNA will issue licences to commercial banks operating in the self-rule areas. This covers Jordanian banks opening branches in Palestinian territories.

1.2 The Jordanian and the Palestinian sides will offer the required facilities (under the existing legislations in Jordan and Palestine) for businesses to open branches or offices for the Jordanian or the Palestinian banks in either country if these banks have their head offices in Jordan or in the Palestini-

nian lands.

1.3. Licences issued by the Central Bank of Jordan to Jordanian banks operating in the West Bank which will later fall under the jurisdiction of the PNA will remain valid provided that these banks be subject to any new legislations issued by the PNA in the future.

The two sides agreed to coordinate their work concerning the licensing of new branches for Jordanian banks which have not been licensed before the signing of this agreement. The PNA takes charge of all authorities in the occupied West Bank.

### 2. Control and supervision of banking operations

2.1. The two sides agreed to set up a joint committee from the Central Bank of Jordan and the Palestine Monetary Authority to undertake the task of laying the foundations and the mechanism to conduct control and supervision on branches and offices of Jordanian banks operating in the Palestinian territories in a manner that would ensure sound liquidity for these banks. This procedure will continue until the Palestine Monetary Authority has finalised its own control and supervision system.

2.2. The Basel Agreement will serve as reference in matters related to the process of coordinating control over banks and the distribution of authorities between the two sides.

The Palestine Monetary Authority and the Central Bank of Jordan will exchange information and data on Jordanian banks and bank offices operating in the Palestinian lands via the joint committee mentioned under item 2.1.

They will also exchange statistics related to Jordanian dinars deposited in non-Jordanian banks operating in the Palestinian territories.

The Central Bank of Jordan will present the PNA through the joint committee any information on statistics connected with the activities of Palestinian banks that are operating or would be operating in Jordan and those of Jordanian banks operating on the West Bank.

2.4 The Central Bank of Jordan will offer expertise and services to the Palestinian side to help it create a Palestine Monetary Authority and recruit cadres for banking operations within a programme conducted by the Central Bank of Jordan and the training facilities of banks in Jordan.

2.5. The Jordanian side will make available sufficient reserve liquidity in Jordanian dinars for Jordanian banks operating in the self-rule areas in accordance with rules to be set by the joint committee.

The two sides will conduct immediate consultations in case of emergency in line with policy to be worked out by the joint committee.

6.2 The two sides will conduct immediate consultations to deal with any emergency in monetary questions related to the circulation of Jordanian dinars in the self-rule regions.

This agreement will be revised at the request of any of the two parties and whenever the need arises.

## France vows to reassert role

(Continued from page 12) Jordan-Israel peace treaty, he said.

In the Israel-PLO context, the EU fully supported the Palestinian rejection of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories and also backed the Palestinian right to self-determination in return for the rights of every country, including Israel, to live in peace within secure borders.

"We deem the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories as illegal," he said. "Our stand is clearly known to Israel, and we consistently remind the Israelis of our

positions that are indeed a key point in our relationship."

Mr. Bajolet said "the basic principles" that the EU believes as the pillars of any just peace in the region also include "the restoration of all occupied territories, refusal to accept facts accomplished in Jerusalem and denunciation of terrorism."

"We condemn the recent bomb attack that claimed innocent lives in Israel," he said referring to Sunday's suicide explosions in Netanya. Asked whether such attacks would have any bearing on our commitment

to the European Union, which has committed 500 million European Currency Units (ECUs), or about \$570 million, at a rate of 100 million ECUs (\$114 million) every year for five years, as aid to the Palestinians, had already allocated 85 million ECUs (\$96 million) to the territories.

The Palestinian acceptance of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty practically

## Jordan unlikely to get major EU debt write-off — diplomats

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Chances of Jordan realising its quest for a substantial write-off of its debts owed to the Paris Club of creditor governments are slim, given the economic preoccupation of some of the European countries and the non-urgent nature of the Jordanian request, two European diplomats said Tuesday.

The diplomats also said Jordan's means to attain self-sufficiency and economic advancement were mainly through making itself attractive to foreign investment and this is a task that the Kingdom had to undertake on its own.

The assertions were made by French Ambassador Bernard Bajolet and German Charge d'Affaires Michael Bock at a press conference held to mark the French assumption of office as the rotating president of the European Union (EU) with effect from Jan. 1.

They were answering a question how far the EU had gone in fulfilling its promise of "investment for peace" seen as inevitable if Arab-Israeli peace accords were to be sustained and consolidated.

About \$3.5 billion of Jordan's foreign debts are owed to the Paris Club. More than two-thirds of it have been

rescheduled since 1989. Under an agreement reached last year, Jordan will be paying token amounts of interest until 1997, when fresh rescheduling negotiations are expected on the outstanding amount.

Mr. Bajolet said EU members accounted for 60 per cent of the \$1.2 billion of Jordanian debts that were rescheduled under "very generous terms" in June 1994.

"I don't expect (the EU) to go any further than this" in debt relief for Jordan, said the ambassador. He also noted that the total EU assistance to Jordan in 1994, in the form of contribution by individual governments and aid channelled by the EU Executive Commission, was 300 million European currency units (ECUs), or about \$340 million.

The amount of debt write-off offered by EU member states to Jordan in 1994 was \$3 million ECUs (about \$71 million) and debt-equity swap around 120 million ECUs (\$140 million), Mr. Bajolet said.

Acknowledging that the U.S., another member of the Paris Club, is offering \$702 million in debt write-off to Jordan, Mr. Bajolet said, however, that "there is nothing that obliges us to imitate the U.S. or anyone else."

"We have economic difficulties and there are definite objective budget limitations to what we could do," he said.

According to the ambassador, the U.S. debt write-off was also contingent on Jordan signing the Oct. 26 peace treaty with Israel.

"Europe does not have a record of making aid to Jordan contingent on political agreements or peace treaties," Mr. Bajolet said. "That is of course not to downplay our total and complete support for the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and appreciation of Jordan's commitment to peace."

Furthermore, Jordan belongs to a category of countries which receive intermediate revenue and thus excluded from debt forgiveness," Mr. Bajolet said.

The German diplomat cited the example of Poland, which received a more than 50 per cent write-off of its foreign debts three years ago, and noted that foreign investors were reluctant to invest in Poland because of the very perceptions created by the debt forgiveness.

"On the other hand, Jordan is very much justified in its expectations, considering that international interest in any particular country remains focused as long as the country remains within the centre of political focus and tends to fade once the political focus shifts."

Both Ambassador Bajolet and Mr. Bock said the main share of the effort to invite foreign capital to Jordan rested with the Kingdom itself. While European countries would extend help wherever possible, "it is up to Jordan itself to create a climate conducive to foreign investment from the private sector," said Mr. Bajolet.

Mr. Bock suggested that it might not be a good idea for Jordan to press for debt forgiveness. "We think the call for debt forgiveness has been

exaggerated," said the German chargé d'affaires.

Given the expectations of foreign private sector investments in Jordan after the King signed peace with Israel, "debt write-offs have the negative side that once any country gets debt write-off, the private sector thinks there is something wrong with the country's economy," Mr. Bock asserted.

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He said countries of the South want to have the treaty include provisions which were missed when it was first made. Among these are a prohibition on nuclear tests, commitments against the use of nuclear weapons and permission for peaceful purposes.

News reports quoted an unnamed U.S. official as saying his country is certain it will have the 85 majority vote needed for indefinite extension of the treaty while Third World countries are reportedly worried the U.S. will be able to orchestrate the rules of the voting to achieve its goal.

Article 10 of the treaty stipulates that countries which have signed the treaty are bound by the decision of the majority of the signatories. That would mean Egypt, which has signed the treaty, will be committed to it even if it does not sign it in April.

Israel press reports said Tuesday that the U.S. has informed Egypt of a possible compromise that would allow it not to sign the treaty but also not to push Arab and Third World countries towards Jordan and the Palestinians.

News reports on Tuesday indicated that the Amman Financial Market immediately picked up at the news of progress towards reaching an economic agreement between Jordan and the Palestinians.

Jordan, as officials say, felt that its problem with the PLO, but seemed less keen if not almost disinterested after signing its own treaty with Israel last October — particularly that it was let down many times by Mr. Arafat.

But things have since then changed. The Jordanian-Israeli treaty proved not to be enough to cause an applied economic boom, while the Amman Financial Market showed great sensitivity to the deterioration of the Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

Chances for a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement narrowed when Israel recognised Jordan's role in the Muslim holy sites in east Jerusalem as part of the Jordanian-Israeli treaty.

But even Palestinian critics of the Jordanian-Israeli treaty, who felt that the step could jeopardise Palestinian claims for sovereignty over East Jerusalem, prodded Mr. Arafat not to escalate tension with Jordan and to seek to talk it over with Amman, especially that Israel was benefiting from the ensuing dispute.

Mr. Arafat was afraid, according to Palestinian officials, that an agreement with Jordan would limit his maneuverability with Israel, especially that Israel was refusing to accept Palestinian sovereignty and Jordan was not ready to commit itself to a confederation between two independent states.

The Palestinians, however, had been seeking to reach a clearly defined framework with Jordan based on future confederal relations. The Palestinians were hoping that such an agreement will enhance their quest for sovereignty in their negotiations with Israel i.e. an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The agreement drafted this week responds partly to Palestinian objectives as it includes an unequivocal Jordanian support for a negotiated settlement with Israel i.e. an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The agreement is designed to support the implementation of the declaration of principles and will lessen the dependence of the autonomous areas and the occupied West Bank

coupled with the paramount task of reconstructing a devastated economy and a strong internal opposition, Mr. Arafat returned to Jordan.

Many PNA officials had been pressing Mr. Arafat to reach agreements with Jordan and increase his manoeuvrability with Israel.

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now," said the official. "Jordanian support for the agreement mentioned in the memorandum is very important for him."

Palestinians realise that if they do not enter agreements with Jordan, the Kingdom can avoid signing any agreements with Jordan, is now coming to Amman because "very few choices remain open to him," said one official.

Jordan and the PNA negotiated an economic agreement to ensure the comprehensiveness of the solution and avoid being the only Arab country of the Madrid conference parties negotiating with Israel that have made peace with the Jewish state as Egypt did in 1979.

"Arab-Israeli peace cannot be complete without a settlement to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict," Foreign Minister Kabariti told journalists.

Mr. Arafat has been losing ground to Islamic groups opposed to the Oslo accord and which have been carrying out attacks against Israelis. He has lost credibility and support among Palestinians as the Israeli government continues to build settlements and delays implementation of the accord.

"Arafat needs Jordan

to succeed in the government's pledge to clear the Arab atmosphere. His visit was preceded by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's visit to Aqaba last Saturday and a visit by the King to Oman.

The source said that a full

Israeli withdrawal, Palestinian self-determination and most importantly a solution to the refugee problem would have to be achieved before the issues of future relations and passports could be settled.

More than a million Palestinians in the West Bank hold two-year Jordanian passports granting Jordanian citizenship.

The Kingdom has also granted Jordanian passports that act as travel documents to over 100,000 Gazans.

## King

(Continued from page 1) has suffered over long years, until a state of just and comprehensive peace is reached to create new conditions which can be enjoyed by all nations of the region and future generations.

Referring to the hitches on the peacemaking between Israel and Syria, Mr. Qasem said these had not progressed "in the manner that had been hoped."

Similar pledges of support were given by Mr. Rawas, the Omani information minister. Oman hosted Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin briefly





## Karolyi's gymnasts work out for 45 hours a week

PORLTAND (AP) — One is among the greatest and most graceful Olympic gymnasts of all time. The other is a bright-eyed 13-year-old who could be the sports next pixie superstar.

Side by side, with Bela Karolyi as their coach, Svetlana Bogusinskaya and Dominique Moceanu are working toward a shared goal, the Atlanta Games of 1996.

Moceanu is 1.32-metre tall (4-foot-4) and weighs 31 kilograms (68 pounds). She turned 13 last September but looks nowhere near that old. When she's competing, she seems to fly, and in just the three months she's worked with Bogusinskaya, she's picked up some of the great Olympian's grace and style.

"I love to watch her," Moceanu said. "She's so pretty on her style and so beautiful. She's really good. I look up to her and copy all of her things."

The two were in Portland to compete at the Reese's International Gymnastic Cup, a relaxed event in which gymnasts compete in costumes to music.

Moceanu won the bars with a 9.75, was second on the balance beam at 9.55 and fourth in the floor exercise at 9.65. Bogusinskaya, in the first real competition in 2½ years, won the balance beam at 9.80 and was second in the floor exercise at 9.75.

Moceanu already has picked up some of Bogusinskaya's traits, such dramatic turns of the head in the floor exercise.

"It's a great influence for the young ones," Karolyi said, "especially for Dominique, who needs exactly what Svetlana offers, expression, the grace, the confidence."

Karolyi calls Moceanu "one of the most talented girls I've had in years."

"Most importantly, she's dynamic, outgoing little thing like Mary Lou used to be," he said. "She's laughing. She's crying. She's jumping. She's rolling. She's doing whatever is on her mind. I love to work with her."

Bogusinskaya looks at Moceanu and remembers herself at that age, before she went on to win Olympic gold medals in 1988 and 1992.

## Racers start world's southernmost road race

MCMURDO STATION, Antarctica (AP) — With sunning seals among the spectators, some 200 runners left the starting line in 24-hour summer sunlight for the 4.5-mile (7.2-kilometre) Scott's Hut race, the world's southernmost road race.

Bagpiper John Wright, an American construction engineer, signaled the start for the runners, joggers and walkers with a ceremonial Scottish tune. Temperatures were around freezing — balmy weather for McMurdo.

Their dash began in downtown McMurdo, the biggest base in Antarctica, in front of the Chapel of the Snows. The Scott's Hut race is the premier sporting event in this American community of some 1,200 scientists and civilian and military support staff in summer. About 250 spend winter at the base.

About 50 of the runners take it seriously, and at the first landmark and check-point, Capt. Robert Scott's "discovery" Hut about a half-mile from the start, the first two men clocked in at about 2 and one-half minutes.

Wedded seals, lazily sunning themselves on the sea ice about 50 yards (metres) away, barely bothered to turn their heads to glance at the spectacle.

Scott's discovery hut was named for his ship on his first major British Antarctic expedition, in 1901-04. Scott built the hut that stands freeze-dried in perpetuity on the edge of McMurdo in January 1902, using it mainly as a storehouse.

Biscuits, dried meat and provisions are still stacked in the hut from polar expeditions launched earlier this century, preserved and edible.

After looping around the Scott's Hut checkpoint, the runners dashed over the volcanic gravel cinder roads through McMurdo and out of town toward Scott Base, the New Zealand research station about 1.5 miles (2.4 kilometres) away, turned back at the edge of McMurdo, ran back to Scott's Hut, and retraced their steps to the start-finish line.

Many competitors walked the course, a pace good enough to qualify them for the T-shirt awarded to all competitors.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Indomitable Lions go hungry

HARARE (AP) — Cameroon's national football squad, thrashed 4-1 by Zimbabwe in an African Cup Nations qualifier at the weekend, are stranded in Harare without money for food, officials said Tuesday. Zimbabwe Football Association (ZIFA) interim secretary-general Phil Hwata said the Cameroon team had no money to feed themselves until their intended departure on Friday. Under the Confederation of African Football (CAF) rules, the hosts provide food and accommodation for the visitors for five days. Cameroon arrived last Thursday and Tuesday was the last day on which ZIFA was obliged to feed them. "We have advised CAF of the plight of the Camerounians but the continental body has not been helpful," Hwata said. "We have been advised that the visitors should feed for themselves for the extra days they are staying in Zimbabwe and we do not know what to do with them."

### Becker back for Germany

BONN (AP) — Boris Becker ended a week of suspense when he said Tuesday he would play for Germany in their Davis Cup tie against Croatia next week. The triple Wimbledon champion denied in a statement the existence of a contract with the German federation worth 3.1 million marks (\$2.07 million) forcing him to turn out for his national team. Becker, a first-round loser in the Australian Open, has not played for Germany for three years after helping them win the Cup in successive years in 1988-89. Germany play Goran Ivanisevic's Croatia at Karlsruhe on Feb. 3-5.

### Milla's Cameroon club claims transfer fee

YAOUNDE (R) — Cameroon World Cup soccer hero Roger Milla's former club have accused him of cheating them out of a transfer fee when he left for Indonesian side Pelita Jaya. "Roger Milla deceived us," Essomba Evenga, Tonnerre Kalala Club de Yaounde's administrative and financial director said. Cameroon soccer officials said Milla told Tonnerre he was going to Indonesia as a coach, not as a player and obtained a release letter to that effect. Milla, 42, who was brought out of retirement to play for Cameroon in the 1994 World Cup, made his second spectacular football comeback last month when he joined Tonnerre Club Pelita Jaya and scored three goals in his first match.

### IAAF move to protect Africans from disease

NAIROBI (R) — The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) plans to devote some of its annual development budget to educating African athletes about the danger of infectious diseases. Speaking at the end of a one-week regional course on sports medicine, Bjorn Wangerman from the IAAF's development department said a large amount of the department's budget would be devoted towards developing athletics in Africa and campaigning against disease. He did not specify how much money would be spent. He said Africa was still most vulnerable to some infectious diseases such as bilharzia, trypanosomiasis, malaria, tuberculosis, hepatitis and AIDS.

### Albert out for rest of season

BRUSSELS (R) — Newcastle's Belgian international defender Philippe Albert will be out for the rest of the season following a successful operation on a serious knee injury sustained in training last month. "The operation was successful," Albert was quoted as saying in the Belgian daily Het Nieuwsblad on Tuesday. "Anyway, the season is over for me so I can work quietly on my recovery." After half a year I should be virtually fit to play. Just in time for the new season," the 27-year-old World Cup player added. Albert, operating on in Cambridge, England, said he would stay in hospital for five days.

## World's top sprinter dashes away from earthquakes

NEW YORK (AP) — Dennis Mitchell is the world's No. 1 sprinter — and he's also becoming an expert on earthquakes.

WHEN THE NEW JERSEY NETS were playing in Detroit earlier this month, all-star Derrick Coleman missed a shoot-around, one of several he's skipped. Coleman, the National Basketball Association's highest-paid player whose home is in Detroit, had a ready excuse, though: his 1970 Chevy Nova wouldn't start.

Of course, the NBA has always prided itself on having attitude. But these days, bad attitude is more the norm.

More and more, players are feuding with coaches over playing time, missing practice without permission, taking their requests for trades publicly and squabbling among themselves. Sometimes they're fined or suspended for their actions, sometimes not.

Just a few recent examples of players acting out:

— Chicago's Scottie Pippen, another all-star who last season refused to play the critical final seconds of a playoff game when a play wasn't called for him, calls his general manager a liar and demands to be traded.

— Dallas' Roy Tarpley throws a fit when he's taken out of a game.

— Seattle's Vincent Asciak, upset with his playing time, refused to enter a game as directed by his coach.

— Minnesota's Isaiah Rider calls a new conference to lash out at his coach.

The season has already seen San Antonio's Dennis Rodman suspended twice for disruptive behaviour and 1994 rookie of the year Chris Webber force a trade to get away from Golden State coach Don Nelson, whom he disliked.

As he, Wells and the others attempted to escape via an emergency exit, they found the door locked. "We had to read the directions before we could open it and get to the steps," Mitchell said.

Once at the steps, Mitchell hoped to use his sprinting ability.

"I wanted to get out of there in 16 seconds — one floor a second," he said. "I was about the only one there who had experience on earthquakes. I was telling them what to do. We had to keep moving, but the pace was slow, because the people were in shock."

Fortunately, no one in the hotel was hurt, Mitchell said, except for those in shock.

Mitchell left Japan to return to the United States about 12 hours after the quake.

"I felt I shouldn't have left so quickly because there was so much devastation," he said. "The country's done so much for me. I should have stayed there in time of need."

After these two horrifying experiences, it would appear to be unsafe to travel with Mitchell. He doesn't agree.

"It's good to travel with me," he said. "I've survived."

"When something like this happens, I know what to do," Mitchell also knows what to do on the track.

He's won two world championship bronze medals and one Olympic bronze medal in the 100-metre dash.

He has run the third leg on the two U.S. teams that share the world record of 37.40 seconds for the 400-metre relay. He ran on two other teams that set the relay record previously. And he has twice won the national 100-metre championship, including last year, a victory that helped him gain the No. 1 ranking in a controversial choice over Britain's Linford Christie, the European and Commonwealth Games champion.

"I couldn't get into the European Championships or the Commonwealth Games," Mitchell said. "In the middle of the season, I was on fire. I was running 9.9s on the track every meet, and Christie was nowhere to be found."

When the two did meet, they split six races.

Mitchell will open his season Feb. 3 in the 60-metre dash at the Millrose Games.

## In the NBA these days, bad attitude seems the norm

The Associated Press

SURE, the majority of players show up for work, listen to their coaches and play hard. But the top-caliber players among that group are wondering why some of their colleagues can't do the same.

"To me, it's wild," said Indiana's Reggie Miller. "I'm from the old school where players play and coaches coach. You hear of so many conflicts between coaches and players, people not showing up for practice, people not wanting to go in games. That's wild, no matter what the circumstances."

"I know you wouldn't want to be working 9-to-5 at IBM. This is two hours of supposedly what you love to do. Players don't appreciate what we get."

Last season, as incidents of taunting and fighting increased, the NBA wasted no time stiffening penalties for such behaviour, and as a result fighting has been practically non-existent this season. But attitude isn't so easily legislated.

Magic Johnson ended a 10-game trial run as the Los Angeles Lakers' coach last season by deciding he wanted no part of coaching. At the time, he blasted his players for a lack of discipline and effort. Now a minority owner of the team, he declined comment through his agent, Lon Rosen.

Denver's Dan Issel quit as coach this month, emotionally spent from trying to coax

consistent effort out of a young and talented team.

Johnson played in the 1980s, Issel in the '70s, but both had trouble relating their playing experience to today's crop of millionaire youngsters.

"It's tougher to coach today, because the salaries are astronomical, and the notoriety

that comes from the endorsement packages makes it harder to reinforce values," said Atlanta Hawks coach Lenny Wilkens.

Just as former pros like Johnson, Issel and Karl find themselves unable to moti-

National Basketball Association results and standings after Monday's games.

L.A. Lakers 108, Charlotte 102

Cleveland 90, L.A. Clippers 68

Utah 116, Dallas 111

### Eastern Conference

#### Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Orlando	32	8	.800	
New York	24	13	.649	1/2
Boston	15	24	.385	16 1/2
New Jersey	15	26	.366	17 1/2
Miami	12	26	.316	19
Philadelphia	12	26	.316	19
Washington	10	27	.270	20 1/2

#### Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	25	14	.641	
Charlotte	24	15	.615	1
Indiana	23	15	.605	1 1/2
Chicago	20	19	.513	5
Atlanta	17	22	.436	8
Milwaukee	15	23	.395	9 1/2
Detroit	11	25	.306	12 1/2

#### Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Utah	29	10	.744	
Houston	23	14	.622	5
San Antonio	22	14	.611	5 1/2
Denver	18	20	.474	10 1/2
Dallas	16	21	.432	12
Minnesota	9	29	.237	19 1/2

#### Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Phoenix	30	8	.7	

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## Jerry Rice considers retirement if 49ers win Super Bowl

MIAMI (AP) — It's almost enough to make San Francisco fans root against their team.

All-pro receiver Jerry Rice says he may retire if the 49ers beat San Diego in Sunday's Super Bowl.

"I'd like to put off that retirement, I can assure you," Chargers coach Bob Ross said with a smile.

Rice, 32, opened the door to an early exit when he answered a question at a news conference Monday about the possibility of retirement.

"That might be something to think about," Rice said. "If I think the fire is still inside, I'll continue to play. If it's gone, it's time to walk away from the game."

The 49ers believe Rice has plenty of fire — and National Football League seasons — remaining.

Coach George Seifert, for one, doubts that his perennial pro bowl receiver will quit.

"That's the first time I've heard any mention of that," Seifert said. "I'd be surprised if that's what he did."

Health isn't an issue. He

last missed a game in 1987. "I feel like a youngster," he said. "If anything, I'm in better shape than when I first came in."

Diminished skills aren't an issue. Rice this season made 112 receptions, the best total of his 10-year career, for 1,499 yards and 13 touchdowns. He broke Jim Brown's NFL record for career touchdowns and was named a Pro Bowl starter for the ninth consecutive time.

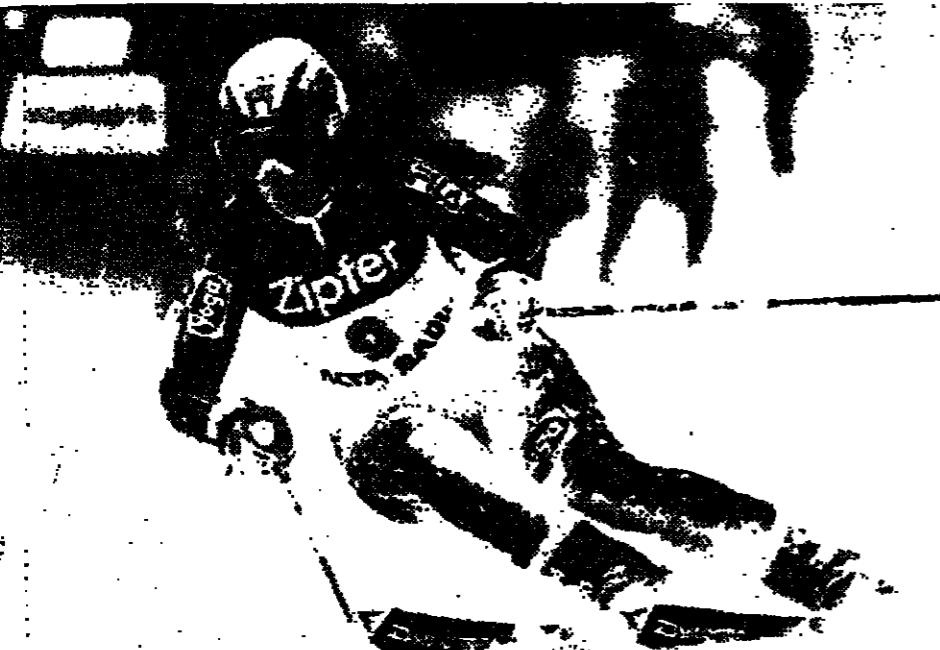
In the National Football Conference championship victory over Dallas, Rice made the game's biggest play — a 28-yard touchdown catch with eight seconds left in the first half.

Against the Chargers in December, he caught 12 passes for 144 yards.

"Jerry Rice is at the top of his game right now," San Diego safety Stanley Richard said. "He can pretty much do what he wants to do. He can play another five or 10 years, if he wants to."

The Chargers arrived in Florida Monday as 19-point underdogs, the biggest spread in football history.

"But it's motivational for us. They're not unbeatable."



Italy's Sabina Panzanini

## World Alpine Ski Championships

### Coaches and athletes struggling to prepare for alternatives

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO, Italy (AP) — With only a week to go to the World Alpine Ski Championships in Sierra Nevada, coaches and athletes are struggling to prepare for races still uncertain because of warm weather.

It has been an extremely mild season for Sierra Nevada, Europe's most southern winter resort, with rain rather than snow falling over the weekend. Temperatures haven't even been cold enough to make the needed artificial snow.

"As it looks right now, the only thing I'm concerned about is the safety — there is not much snow and outside the course there are only rocks to slide into," said Canada's Kate Pace, the defending world downhill champion.

Organisers have postponed making a decision on whether to hold the races several times already putting the teams, many of which planned to leave as early as Monday, into a holding pattern.

The International Ski Federation (FIS) said it would announce its final verdict on Jan. 26, only three days before the opening ceremonies are to be held.

The U.S. team's head coach Herwing Dembschar headed to Sierra Nevada Saturday to see for himself.

Coaches are also worried about what to do with their athletes when they arrive in Spain and have no prepared tracks to train on.

Some athletes, such as two-time Olympic champion Deborah Compagnoni of Italy, may be forced to return home to practice on snow-covered slopes in between the different events that are spread out over a two week period.

"Either I decide it is possible to train, or if I see no chance I'll keep them in Europe until the 27th," said Dembschar.

For the American women waiting out the decision teams passing up a three day break at the beach on Spain's sunny coast.

Germany's Katja Seizinger who leads the World Cup overall standings said she would only think about the

championships on Thursday, when FIS makes a decision.

However, she isn't afraid to set her sights on the medals: "I hope to win at the world championships even though the runs there are very easy — I like more technical courses," she said.

The Americans are some of the race favourites considering their stellar results so far this season. Hilary Lindh and Picabo Street have both won three out of a total of five world cup downhill races.

After winning her second career World Cup downhill in Cortina, Street said, "I hope we have them (the World Championships), that's all I can say."

Lindh won the World Cup downhill in Sierra Nevada last year and Street predicts strong results for her teammate.

"She is really confident," said street of Lindh.

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## Australian Open

### Sampras downs Courier to keep title hopes alive Chang, Martinez, Pierce progress into semifinals

MELBOURNE (Agencies)

— World No. 1 Pete Sampras extended his extraordinary defence of his Australian Open title with an emotional moonlit victory over twice champion Jim Courier at Flinders Park Tuesday.

Sampras staged a brilliant comeback from two sets down for the second time in successive matches to clinch a 6-7 6-7 6-3 6-4 6-3 victory over his fellow American in the tournament's most dramatic match for some years.

Linebacker David Griggs, who used to play for the Miami Dolphins, said the Chargers aren't getting the respect they deserve, but understands why.

"The 49ers won, what Four Super bowls, and the Chargers haven't won any. It's our first time here, and for the past 10 years the AFC has gotten stomped. So of course we're going to be the underdogs," Griggs said.

Television microphones apparently picked up a spectator shouting "do it for your coach" at the start of the fifth set, while Sampras also received treatment for a foot injury during a contest which lasted one minute short of four hours.

It was past one o'clock in the morning before Sampras was able to nail down his 10th victory in 14 matches against Courier and secure himself a semifinal against another American, Michael Chang.

Chang beat an ailing Andre Medvedev in three tough sets Tuesday at the Australian Open, clinching the third Grand Slam semi-final appearance of his career.

The 22-year-old American downed Medvedev 7-6 (9-7), 7-5, 6-3 after the Ukrainian was hampered by an injury to his left wrist he suffered during the first set.

Medvedev, seeded 13th, lunged for the ball in the eighth point of the first-set tiebreaker and fell heavily. He was treated several times and the potency of his threat faded as the match progressed.

The right-hander appeared to have trouble with his ball toss after the fall and said the wrist felt numb when he hit double-handed backhands.

"It was painful, but I could play, more or less," said Medvedev. "It took a little while to adjust to the pain, but it wasn't the reason that I lost."

Chang has dropped only one set in his first five matches at the open, where he had not previously made it past the third round.

"It was an awkward match — a very up-and-down match," Chang said. "In the first two sets a couple of points here and there could have turned it around."

The win took Chang two hours and 23 minutes. Both men played mainly from the baseline but Medvedev made considerably more errors — 31 to his rival's 48.

"It was confidence booster — it was a good match for me to have to battle," Chang said. "I feel like I'm in pretty good shape, physically and

mentally."

Medvedev had his chances to win. He had a set point in the first set and served for the second — but didn't take the opportunities.

Chang, who was treated during the match for what appeared to be a groin strain, wavered briefly in the third set.

Medvedev came back from 0-5 to 3-5 before dropping his own serve and the match.

#### Australian Open note-book

★ Stefan Edberg could struggle to add another Grand Slam title to the six he has already, according to the man who sent him packing from the Australian Open tennis championships.

"He's probably a notch lower than he was in 1990 when he won the U.S. Open and was number one in the world," said American Aaron Krickstein, who beat Edberg in the fourth round.

"It's going to be tougher for him (to win a Grand Slam). He's not getting any younger, just like myself, so there's not too many left. He hasn't done too well over the last five or six grand slam events."

Pierce will face No. 2 seed Conchita Martinez of Spain in the semifinals.

Wimbledon champion Martinez moved into her first Australian Open semifinal with a 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 win in one hour-41 minutes over 18-year-old American Lindsay Davenport, the No. 6 seed.

Davenport made 50 unforced errors to just 26 from Martinez.

Pierce, the No. seed from France, hit the ball deep and hard, moving a frustrated Zvereva around the court to win 6-1, 6-4.

Pierce, 20, raced through the first set in just 20 minutes, dropping only the fifth game, and then pulled away from 4-4 in the second set after Zvereva briefly rallied from 2-4.

"In the first set I was pretty happy," Pierce said. "I was very aggressive but I got a bit impatient in the second, made a few mistakes and got upset with myself."

Pierce was successful with 84 per cent of her first serves, hit 25 winners to just 11 from No. 8 Zvereva, and won the point of 10 of the 12 times she approached the net.

"She was extremely confident, blasting balls everywhere," Zvereva said. "Everything went in. There was a feeling coming across the net from her. She's pumped up."

Pierce was given a time violation warning on match point as she prepared to serve, but she clinched the point and the match with a backhand down the line before running to the net with her fist clenched in triumph.

"It didn't bother me at all," Pierce said. "It was just a warning."

Martinez said she was enjoying the experience of playing outdoors after struggling in indoor tournaments during the second half of 1994.

"I'm feeling very confident and playing tennis at the moment," she said. "It's great to be in the semis here for the first time."

"That's what happened during the 80s. Everybody took. I think that was the general reaction."

Natasha Zvereva of Belarus wears sunglasses during her match at the Australian Open (AFP photo)

Newcombe, captain of Australia's Davis Cup team, says he instructed his charges last year to be more understanding of the public's perception of the sport. And he's seen the increased crowds at this year's tournament, almost

fanatical support by some young teens for Australia's top-ranked player, Patrick Rafter, and the emergence of a number of new players making their marks early this year.

★ Junior charge: Players from 27 countries are taking part in the boys and girls junior singles competitions at the Australian Open.

Australia leads the way in the entries with a total of 55 competitors, made up of 29 girls and 26 boys.

The United States has eight in all, split evenly between the two competitions.

Japan has seven players, while Germany, Hungary and New Zealand have six representatives.

★ Lefties struggle: No lefthander has won the men's championship or even reached the final at the Australian Open since the tournament was switched to Flinders Park in 1988.

The last lefthander to win was Argentina's Guillermo Vilas, who won in 1978-79 when the Open was being staged at Kooyong.

★ Taking no chances: Australia's Davis Cup team is

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## France vows to reassert EU role in peace process

*Paris, new EU president, will no longer accept 'marginalised role' — ambassador*

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The European Union (EU) is no longer content with a secondary role in the Middle East peace process and would strive for direct involvement in Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, the French ambassador to Jordan said Tuesday.

Ambassador Bernard Bajolet also condemned Sunday's suicide bombings in Israel that killed at least 19 people and said extremism would not have any impact at least on the EU's commitment to supporting the peace process and extending financial assistance to help develop the Palestinian economy.

Mr. Bajolet was addressing a press conference marking the French assumption of the rotating presidency of the EU with effect from Jan. 1.

During the next six months, France would try to bring about "fundamental changes" in the EU's institutions as well as the bloc's approach to global political issues in a way that would reflect the Union's weight as accounting for 45 per cent of the world's trade, the ambassador said.

## Kobe declared disaster area; tax cuts offered

KOBE (Agencies) — A week after Kobe was devastated by an earthquake, the cabinet declared the once-vibrant city a disaster zone Tuesday, effectively shouldering huge rebuilding costs.

Opposition lawmakers assailed the government of Prime Minister Tomiochi Murayama for its slow response to the quake, which killed more than 5,000 people.

"What were you thinking of?" opposition delegate Akira Kuroyanagi screamed at the prime minister in an emotional parliament session. He demanded Mr. Murayama apologize to the nation "for the suffering of the people."

One week after the quake, the death toll stood at 5,063 with 68 still missing. Another 26,500 people were injured and at least 56,000 buildings damaged or destroyed in the Jan. 17 earthquake, which had a magnitude of 7.2.

Mr. Murayama avoided any apology but said the government will spare no effort to improve disaster preparedness. The Finance Ministry unveiled a series of tax breaks for quake victims based on their income and property losses.

Those whose property losses still exceed their annual income after discounting in-

surance payments will have to pay no income tax for 1994, the ministry said Tuesday.

The Health Ministry relaxed restrictions on foreign doctors who have volunteered their services. The ministry said foreign doctors will be allowed to treat quake victims even though they lack Japanese medical licenses.

After earmarking a hundred billion yen (\$4 billion) from a contingency fund last week, the government formally declared the region a disaster area on Tuesday, opening the way for special low-interest reconstruction loans.

Meanwhile, the stress of tackling the aftermath of the disaster — now being called the Great Hanshin earthquake — began to show with the suspected death by suicide of an official struggling to restore the city's water supplies.

A police spokesman Koji Nagase said: "We have called on the staff to keep their calm."

As clean-up operations ended their first week, traffic returned to repaired roads in this international port city.

The traffic into the city centre, nestled beneath the Rokko mountains, reverberated as buses resumed services on 50 of the city's 77 routes to make up for railways and subways still in ruins, dodging streets with cracked surfaces and heaps of debris and those threatened by tilted buildings.

Rescue teams, beefed up by British and French specialists and U.S. doctors, failed to find any survivors by nightfall Tuesday. The death toll stood at 5,063 and 68 still listed as missing.

The National Police Agency added that 26,284 people had been injured and 56,243 houses and buildings destroyed in the quake.

A police spokesman Takashi Nakashima, 37, a water supply control official, was found dead Monday morning outside his office in central Kobe, apparently after leaping from the fourth floor of the building.

"We don't know yet if it was a suicide or accident. But it is true that we have been under growing stress and tension," said city waterworks

(Continued on page 7)

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ARRESTS: Israeli soldiers arrest a Palestinian youth while a borderguard (left) interrogates another one at a Bethlehem roadblock Tuesday. The Israeli army spread a security blanket over Israel and the Palestinians sealing the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to prevent Palestinians from entering Israel and Jerusalem (see page one) (AFP photo)

## Cabinet presents policy statement to House today

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker will today seek a vote of confidence from the Lower House of Parliament on the basis of a policy statement that is expected to stress the advantages of the Oct. 26 peace treaty with Israel and reiterate the cabinet's commitment to political, social, administrative and economic reform.

Along with Mr. Obeidat, the leftist lawmakers will cast a no-confidence vote in the government because it is a "uni-colour" cabinet which will not be able to carry out the tasks outlined for it in His Majesty King Hussein's letter of designation to Sharif Zeid.

Indications are that the government will emerge from the confidence session, ex-

pected to begin Saturday, with a strong parliamentary mandate though it will be subjected to tough criticism from opposition deputies.

Observers say the government will secure 54 to 56 votes of confidence in the 80-member house since it has the support of most members of four parliamentary blocks as well as the majority of independent lawmakers.

Withholding confidence will be the 17-member Islamic Action Front, the only block excluded from the government, and leftist deputies Bassam Haddadin (Zarqa), Khalil Haddadin (Amman) and Mustafa Shneikat (Balqa).

Toujan Faisal (Amman) as well as Deputy Talal Obeidat (Irbid). The IAF members will vote against the government because one of the Cabinet's major tasks is the implementation of the peace treaty, which they oppose on ideological grounds, according to IAF officials. The Islamists will also oppose the government because it ignored them in the consultations over the formation of the cabinet earlier this month.

Parliamentary sources said Dr. Qudah could be joined by two to three deputies in withholding confidence from the government in an expression of discontent about keeping them or their constituencies out of the cabinet.

Observers expect the confi-

idence session to last from two to three days, saying that the majority of deputies will make speeches in support of or against the government.

House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srour was quoted by the Al Rai daily on Tuesday as urging parliamentary blocs to each deliver a coordinated speech on behalf of its members.

He also urged lawmakers to be brief in their speeches so as to save time

for the House and the government alike.

But lawmakers are not expected to heed the call. Opposition members will use the opportunity to air their views about the peace treaty and alleged encroachment on their freedom of expression.

Through their parliamentary platform, those lawmakers are expected to subject the government to harsh criticism in an effort to have their message reach the public.

But supporters of the government will not allow the opposition to have a field day. Therefore, they too will deliver speeches to counter the opposition's allegations and defend the government's position, especially on the peace treaty whose advantages they will try to spell out.

Moreover, deputies have developed a tradition of making speeches on important occasions such as confidence votes and the discussions of the draft budgets. Few expect lawmakers to break away from this tradition, especially because it receives substantial television coverage which many deputies often utilise for electioneering purposes and stating the concerns of their constituents.

The government, through the prime minister, will respond to the deputies' comments before the vote of confidence is cast and the cabinet of Sharif Zeid is expected to emerge with the second largest vote of confidence among the five governments that took office since the parliamentary elections of 1989 — the largest being that of the 1989 government of Mudar Badran who then secured the confidence of the then-23 strong Muslim Brotherhood bloc.

The Senate, which was meeting under the chairmanship of its Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister Khalid Karaki, approved two draft laws on military and civil service pension as they were referred to it by the Lower House.

In order to become laws, the two drafts should be endorsed by His Majesty King Hussein.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Half of Israelis want to halt peace talks

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Fifty per cent of Israelis want the government to suspend peace negotiations with the Palestinians following Sunday's bombing which left 19 people dead, according to a poll published Tuesday. The survey in the Maariv newspaper found 37 per cent in favour of continuing the talks, in line with the policy of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Thirteen per cent voiced no opinion. The poll was taken Monday among 516 Jewish Israelis and has an error margin of 4.5 per cent. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin pledged Monday to forge ahead with the peace process to achieve a complete separation between Israelis and Palestinians.

Tantawi throws doubt on Arab-Israeli peace

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt's mufti, one of the country's highest religious authorities, voiced doubt Tuesday over the prospects of Arab-Israeli peace amid a row with Israel over nuclear weapons. "I do not see reconciliation with someone who wants to harm us," said Sheikh Mohammad Sayyed Tantawi in an interview with the Islamic opposition newspaper Al Shabab. "Reconciliation is only made with a party which does not do us wrong," the government-appointed mufti replied to a question about the prospects of Middle East peace. Egypt says it will not sign a renewal of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) due in April unless Israel also joins up. Cairo reacted angrily to an Israeli foreign ministry report leaked to the press, which urged retaliatory measures against Egypt for its "negative" attitude to the Jewish state. "The Israeli threats to punish Egypt are not fit for anything but the rubbish bin," as Foreign Minister Ami Musa has said. "Sheikh Tantawi told Al Shabab: "For our part we must prepare to punish those who want to attack us," he added.

The first evacuees had been in hiding for three weeks in sub-zero temperatures, the Geneva-based group said. They included a woman wounded by shrapnel and her 18-year-old daughter, dazed and in shock, who were taken to hospital.

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"In Chechenya, lots of sons were killed, and thinking about it breaks my heart," he told Echo Moskva.

"My heart breaks for those homeless and destitute whom I couldn't defend."

At least half of the 10,000 Chechen civilians trapped in Grozny will be evacuated in an emergency operation that is already underway, an international relief agency said.

"I could have cracked them in the nose," said one rebel fighter, Magomet Abdulgafarov, after sneaking behind Russian lines to harass enemy posi-

tions.

"We're not a peace organisation," he said.

Mr. Dadyev said his own son, Avlur, had been killed but that he had more to think about than that.

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